EXHIBIT J

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA		
CHARLESTON DIVISION		
IN RE: ETHICON, INC. PELVIC REPAIR SYSTEMS PRODUCTS		
LIABILITY LITIGATION		
MASTER FILE NO. 2:12-MD-02327		
MDL NO. 2327		
GENERAL CAUSATION RE: TVT-0		
PURSUANT TO NOTICE, the deposition of BRIAN		
FLYNN, M.D. was taken on behalf of the Plaintiff at		
Denver Marriott West, 1717 Denver West Boulevard,		
Golden, Colorado, on April 14, 2016, at 8:42 a.m.,		
before Melanie L. Giamarco, Registered Merit Reporter,		
Certified Realtime Reporter, and Notary Public within		
Colorado.		
GOLKOW TECHNOLOGIES		
877.370.3377 ph/ 917.591.5672 fax		
deps@golkow.com		

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Page 2 A P P E A R A N C E S For the Plaintiffs: JOSEPH ZONIES, ESQ. GREG BENTLEY, ESQ. SHEA SHAVER, ESQ ZONIES LAW, LLC 1900 Wazee Street Suite 203 Denver, Colorado 80202 For the Defendants Johnson & Johnson and Ethicon: BARRY J. KOOPMANN, ESQ. DAVID J. DUKE, ESQ. BOWMAN AND BROOKE, LLP 150 South Fifth Street Suite 3000 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402	Page 4 NUMBER DESCRIPTION PAGE Exhibit 14 Study published in International Urogynecology Journal by Chahin Achtari, et al., entitled: Anatomical study of the obturator foramen and dorsal nerve of the clitoris and their relationship to minimally invasive slings Exhibit 15 Study published in BJU 61 International, by Jean-Pierre Spinosa, et al., entitled: Transobturator surgery for female stress incontinence: a comparative anatomical study of outside-in vs inside-out techniques Exhibit 16 Article published in Urology Times 65 entitled: Slings for stress incontinence: Are all created equal? Exhibit 17 The Cochran Collaboration review entitled: Mid-urethral sling operations for stress urinary incontinence in women Exhibit 18 Article published in Urogynecology 99 by Dr. Funk entitled: Sling revision/removal for mesh erosion and urinary retention: long-term risk and predictors
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	risk and predictors Exhibit 19 Article published in International Urogynecology Journal by Dr. Tommaselli, et al., entitled: Medium-term and ling-term outcomes following placement of midurethral slings for stress urinary incontinence: a systematic review and metaanalysis Exhibit 20 Article published in International Urogynecology Journal by Dr. Unger, et al., entitled: Indications and risk factors for midurethral sling revision Page 5
1 INDEX 2 EXAMINATION OF BRIAN FLYNN, M.D. March 24, 2016 3 By Mr. Zonies 5 4 By Mr. Koopmann 86 5 EXHIBITS 6 NUMBER DESCRIPTION PAGE 7 Exhibit 1 Amended Notice to Take 5 Deposition of Brian Flynn, M.D. 8 Exhibit 2 Compilation of letters and 7 e-mails between Dr. Flynn and Johnson & Johnson, 16 pages 10 Exhibit 3 Master Consulting Agreement 8 11 between Dr. Flynn and Ethicon, Inc. 12 Exhibit 4 Testimony list of Dr. Flynn 9 13 Exhibit 5 CV of Dr. Flynn 9 14 Exhibit 6 Compilation of letters between 9 15 Dr. Flynn and Butler Snow 16 Exhibit 7 USB drive 12 17 Exhibit 8 USB drive 12 18 Exhibit 9 CD titled: Ethicon Gynecare 13 Pelvic Mesh Litigation 19 Exhibit 10 Invoice of Dr. Flynn regarding 14 20 preparation of TVT-O report 21 Exhibit 11 TVT-O studies 18 22 Exhibit 12 Expert Overview of TVT-Obturator 20	PROCEEDINGS (Exhibit Number 1 was marked for identification.) BRIAN FLYNN, M.D., fafter having been duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows: EXAMINATION BY MR. ZONIES: Q. Doctor, good morning. A. Good morning. My name is Joe Zonies, and we've met before. I'm taking this deposition on behalf of the having plaintiffs in this litigation. Do you understand that? A. I do. Q. And you understand this morning that we're going to talk about the TVT-Obturator device, correct? A. Correct. Q. I'm going to hand you what's been marked as Exhibit 1, the notice of deposition as amended. Have you seen this document before? A. I have.
 23 Exhibit 13 Study published in Obstetrics & 58 Gynecology by Christopher M. 24 Zahn, et al., entitled: Anatomic Comparison of Two 25 Transobturator Tape Procedures 	Q. And it requests that you bring certain things with you as well in Exhibit A. Did you bring anything with you today?

Case 2:12-md-02327 Document 2130-10 Filed 05/05/16 Page 4 of 30 PageID #: 52807 Page 6 Page 8 1 A. I did. 1 Johnson & Johnson sent out to all their preceptors, 2 Q. And what is that? 2 but that's not the actual contract. 3 Q. And as of November 12th, 2013, did you have A. I have it in the center of the table. a consulting relationship with Johnson & Johnson? 4 There are some e-mails between myself and Ethicon, my 5 CV, my fee schedule, the notice of deposition. And A. I have not. 6 then some of the items were submitted at the last Q. And so did you receive this e-mail in error 7 deposition, like a contract, for instance, I had with from Johnson & Johnson? 8 Ethicon, so I responded to the notice. A. Correct. And I've brought also some USB drives. And Q. That's what I thought. 10 the USB drives are articles that may or may not be A. I may have been listed as a preceptor, but 11 included in these binders. So in addition to the 11 I was not active, and I didn't have any binding 12 USBs, I brought a binder here that has my expert contract. 13 Q. Okay. You've also produced what I'll mark 13 report; it has all the articles that I've referenced 14 in my expert report, my reliance list. I also have a as Exhibit 3. And it has previously been marked as an 15 CD here of articles on TVT-O, and then I have an Exhibit 5 in a deposition on January 7th, 2015, 16 invoice on TVT-O. something entitled the "Master Consulting Agreement." 17 17 (Exhibit 3 was marked for identification.)

Q. Okay. So let's go through those and mark 18 them.

19 MR. ZONIES: Can we go off the record a 20 second?

21 (A discussion was held off the record.)

22 Q. (By Mr. Zonies) Doctor, I'm going to mark

23 as Exhibit 2 one of the documents you brought with

24 you.

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Ethicon?

(Exhibit 2 was marked for identification.) 1

Q. Could you identify that document, please?

3 A. This is a document marked Exhibit 2. And

4 these are e-mails that I printed out from

5 communication I had with Johnson & Johnson and Ethicon

6 in regards to my interaction with them.

7 Q. Okay. And have you produced these e-mails

before to the plaintiffs at all, or is this the first 8

time that you're producing this? 9

10 A. This has been produced multiple times.

11 This is the same batch of e-mails from a deposition I

12 gave a few weeks ago on two different plaintiffs,

13 Mrs. Ruiz and Mrs. Lehman, and also on the TVT-Secur

14 product. These e-mails were also produced in a

15 deposition and trial on plaintiff Colleen Perry.

16 Q. And this is -- Exhibit 2 is dated

17 November 12th, 2013, and it appears to be a

18 procurement contract for your services with Johnson &

19 Johnson; is that right?

20 A. This is a new exhibit?

Q. No, Exhibit 2. It's your contract for

22 consulting with Johnson & Johnson.

23 A. No, that's not the contract. The contract,

24 I think, is the next document. That discussed maybe

25 some contractual issues. And it was a notice that

Page 9

1 Q. Thank you.

A. Correct.

(Exhibit 4 was marked for identification.)

Q. Is this your contract that you had with

A. This is dated March 5th, 2011. And this

Q. And to your knowledge, is that the last

was a consulting agreement that I engaged with

consulting agreement you had with Ethicon?

Johnson & Johnson/Ethicon.

Q. Exhibit 4 is a list of the cases in which

you have testified or been deposed as an expert; is

that correct?

A. This is a five-year list of the most recent

testimony and trial testimony -- deposition and trial

testimony that I have participated in. The only thing

it does not include is the recent deposition I gave,

that you're aware of, in March of this year. So it's

almost up to date. It just doesn't have the last list

of depositions from March 2016.

(Exhibit 5 was marked for identification.)

Q. Great. And Exhibit 5, I've just marked, is

your current CV or resume, correct?

A. This is my CV or resume. It's been updated

March 7th, 2016.

Q. And then I'll mark as a group a series of

communications from Butler Snow to you, one, two,

20 three, four . . .

(Exhibit 6 was marked for identification.)

Q. Exhibit 6 are eight letters to you from

23 Butler Snow; is that correct?

24 A. That is correct.

Q. And what are those letters?

- A. When I receive documents from Butler and Snow, there's a cover letter that is included in
- ³ either the USB that was sent to me, CD, DVD or paper
- 4 copy, so it's just a cover letter that came with the
- 5 package.
- 6 Q. And the last one -- the last cover letter
- ⁷ there is dated January of 2016. Do you think that's
- 8 the last time you received any materials from Butler
- 9 Snow?
- 10 A. No, I received materials since then, so in
- 11 addition to material that's been mailed to me, I have
- 12 received material electronically via zip drives, and
- 13 that's what I've included -- or excuse me, zip files,
- $^{14}\,$ so I've downloaded those files and put them on the
- 15 USB.
- Q. Great. Thank you.
- Do you have that USB with you?
- 18 A. I do.
- Q. So you've brought with you, Doctor, two
- 20 USBs; is that right?
- 21 A. Correct.
- Q. And what's your understanding of what is on
- 23 these USBs?
- A. The USBs would be everything that I have
- ²⁵ pertaining to TVT-O, including scientific articles,

- Q. And the reason that they're not in your
- ² report or on your reliance materials is because you

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- 3 received them after you wrote your report?
- A. No, I think they were not critical to the
- 5 report, and so they weren't necessarily used to
- 6 formulate my opinions. I just tried to be as complete
- ⁷ as possible, so they were articles or PowerPoints that
- 8 pertained to TVT-O, but I didn't necessarily rely on
- 9 them or use them to compose my report.
- MR. ZONIES: Okay. I'll mark these as
- 11 Exhibits 7 and 8.
- 12 (Exhibits 7 and 8 were marked for
- 13 identification.)
- MR. KOOPMANN: Just for clarification,
 - Counsel, and so Greg knows, there may be some Prolift
- 16 materials -- I think there are some Prolift-related
- 17 materials on there as well, so you might mark them for
- both depositions.
- MR. ZONIES: That sounds great. Thank you.
- THE WITNESS: Yeah, red one is the TVT-O,
- 21 and then the black one, I believe, is the Prolift.
- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) Okay. So we'll say that
- 23 Exhibit 7 is primarily Prolift materials, and
- 24 Exhibit 8 is TVT-O.
- A. The other way around.

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- 1 PowerPoint presentations, videos, also media that I've
- ² created. There's a video on TVT-O. There's an
- ³ abstract on TVT-O. So that was in response to the
- 4 notice of deposition.
- 5 Q. Thank you.
- 6 And I think you mentioned when you came in
- 7 that there may be some materials, including scientific
- 8 articles, on here that are not listed either in your
- ⁹ report or on your reliance materials; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Do you know, as you sit here, what those
- 12 might be?

10

- A. There's probably quite a bit of
- 14 duplication, so a lot of those articles are articles
- 15 that I've collected personally over the years, so they
- 16 may duplicate with other articles that have been
- 17 provided to me for convenience.
- Q. And do you know, as you sit here -- or is
- 19 there anything on here that you know, as you sit here
- 20 right now, that is not either on your reliance list or
- 21 in your report?
- A. I know there are some documents, especially
- 23 Ethicon internal documents and PowerPoint
- $^{\rm 24}\,$ presentations, IFUs, patient brochures, things of that
- 25 matter.

- Q. Other way around.
- A. The one you have in your hand is TVT-O.
- O. The red one is TVT-O?
- 4 A. Correct.
- ⁵ Q. That is Exhibit 8. I've just marked that
- 6 as Exhibit 8.

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11

- A. Okay.
- Q. You've also said that you've brought with
- ⁹ you a CD, or disk, as well; is that right, Doctor?
 - A. That is correct.
 - O. And what's on there?
- A. These articles, I believe, are also on the
- 13 USB. I can't be certain, but these articles were sent
- to me on CD by Butler and Snow, these articles
- ¹⁵ pertaining to the Ethicon Gynecare pelvic mesh
- litigation, specifically TVT-O, and I received this
- ¹⁷ July 2nd, 2015.
- Q. So is it likely, since you received that in
- July of 2015, that these materials are on your
- reliance list or in your report?
- A. I would say, most likely, the majority of
- ² them I relied on. I received that CD, you know,
- ²³ immediately before I was preparing the report.
- (Exhibit 9 was marked for identification.)
 - Q. So I've marked this disk as Exhibit 9. And

- 1 it says on it "Butler Snow Ethicon Gynecare Pelvic
- ² Mesh Litigation," and then in red ink it says "TVT-O."
- 3 Is that your red ink on there?
 - A. That's my handwriting, yes.
- 5 Q. Okay. And then "CD Received" in the red,
- 6 it says July 2nd, 2015; is that right?
- A. Correct.
- 8 Q. And what else did you bring with you,
- 9 Doctor?
- 10 A. I have the most recent invoice that I've
- 11 prepared on TVT-O.
- 12 MR. ZONIES: Thank you. So I'll mark as
- 13 Exhibit 10 an invoice that says "Preparation of TVT-O
- 14 Report."
- 15 (Exhibit 10 was marked for identification.)
- 16 Q. And Doctor, can you tell me what that
- 17 represents, Exhibit 10?
- 18 A. This represents an invoice of the hours,
- the rates and the total charges for preparation of the
- 20 TVT-O report.
- 21 Q. And does that invoice represent all of the
- 22 work you did up to and through the writing and
- submission of your TVT-O expert report?
- 24 A. It does.
- 25 O. And what is the total amount of time that

- A. And some additional ones as well.
- O. What additional ones?
- A. Specific to slings? 3
- 4 Q. Yes.

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5

- A. So just to summarize --
- MR. KOOPMANN: I don't want him to talk

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Page 17

- about things that he's consulting on that are
- confidential yet.
- MR. ZONIES: Okay.
- 10 MR. KOOPMANN: What he's disclosed -- what
- 11 Ethicon has disclosed are the TVT, TVT-O and TVT-Secur
- 12 reports.
- 13 MR. ZONIES: Understood.
- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) So Doctor, we've received
 - three TVT sling reports, one for O, one for R, and one
- 16 for S.
- My question is, which of those three, R, O 17
- or S, did you write first?
- 19 A. TVT-R.
- 20 Q. The Retropubic. And as you've discussed,
- the first, about, 20 pages of your report is very
- similar regarding those three products, TVT-R, O and
- 23 S; is that right?
- 24 MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
- 25 A. It's regards to the history of

- 1 you spent researching and writing your TVT-O report?
- 2 A. Sixteen hours.
- Q. And you billed for that 16 hours at
- 4 different prices depending on the task that you were
- 5 doing, correct?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 Q. And actually, you only billed for 16 hours
- for preparation of your report at \$500 an hour
- 9 totaling \$8,000, correct?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 O. And that's the total amount of time, 16
- 12 hours, that you spent researching, writing,
- 13 proofreading, and signing your expert witness report
- 14 for TVT-O in this litigation, correct?
- 15 A. Correct. But I would like to also add that
- 16 before I prepared the TVT-O, I prepared TVT. And
- 17 there's a lot of similarity between the two reports,
- 18 so I didn't include those hours of preparation of this
- 19 since they were included in other invoices. So in
- 20 terms of writing the history of incontinence and the
- 21 options, and so maybe 40, 50 percent of that report
- 22 had come from a previous report that I had authored.
- Q. And so you have authored, regarding Ethicon 23
- 24 slings, three reports, a TVT-Retropubic, TVT-Obturator
- 25 and TVT-Secur report, correct?

- 1 incontinence, my background, qualifications. Those
- 2 are the things that are similar. The product-specific
- 3 stuff is different.
- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) Okay. And in your
- 5 reports -- and we can go through this in detail later,
- 6 but, in general, in your reports, you talk about your
- qualifications, then you talk about the history of
- incontinence and various treatments for it, and then you have a history of TVT-Retropubic where you discuss
- Ohmsten in each of the reports, correct?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 Q. And that, generally, are the sections that
 - are the same throughout the three reports, correct?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. And it would be your testimony that the
 - billing -- the time that you spent writing those
- sections, we'll see the invoice for that time
- primarily in the TVT-Retropubic deposition next week,
- correct? 19
- 20 A. Correct.
- Q. So the 16 hours working on TVT-O -- on your
- 22 TVT-O report that are reflected in Exhibit 10, those
- 16 hours are focused primarily on the TVT-O-specific
- 24 section of your TVT-O report, correct?
- 25 A. Correct.

- Q. Is there anything else that you brought with you today, Doctor, other than the binder? I'll get to that last.
- 4 A. This is not -- this is part of my binder,
- ⁵ but not punched, three-hole punched, is just a
- 6 bibliography of the articles in my TVT-O report.
- 7 That's just compiled a little bit different than --
- 8 the footnotes are on each page of this report, and I
- 9 also like to have them just separate and organized and
- 10 alphabetized, so that's something that I had prepared
- 11 separately.
- (Exhibit 11 was marked for identification.)
- Q. So what I'm marking as Exhibit 11, Doctor,
- 14 is a document that is eight pages long and entitled
- 15 "TVT-O" at the top, correct?
- 16 A. Correct.
- Q. And this appears to be an alphabetical
- 18 listing of various studies, correct?
- 19 A. Correct.
- Q. And is it your testimony that the studies
- 21 that are listed in Exhibit 11 are all studies that are
- 22 cited in the body of your report?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. And then the -- after the studies, there
- ²⁵ are a number of other documents listed. Can you

- The reliance list that you provided with
 - 2 your TVT-O report, is that the same reliance list that
 - ³ you also provided with your TVT-R and O report -- S

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Page 21

- 4 report?
- 5 A. No, this is unique to this report and this
- 6 deposition.
- 7 MR. ZONIES: Doctor, I'm marking as
- 8 Exhibit 12 your expert report entitled "Expert
- 9 Overview of TVT-Obturator" that was provided to us in
- 10 this case.
- 11 (Exhibit 12 was marked for identification.)
- Q. Is Exhibit 12 your expert report in this
- 13 litigation for the TVT-Obturator?
- A. This is a 53-page document. It looks to be
- 15 the same exact report, although without reading every
- word of it, I can't be a hundred percent certain, but
- 17 to my best knowledge, it looks to be the same.
 - Q. And I'll represent to you, Doctor, that
- 19 Exhibit 12 is what was provided to us as an expert
- 20 report. If you do notice any differences between that
- 23 report. If you do notice any differences between that
- 21 and what you have in your binder in front of you, just
- 22 let me know, and we'll talk about that, okay?
- 23 A. Okay.
- Q. This Exhibit 12 was executed by you and
- 25 dated February 26, 2016, is that right, on page 53?

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- 1 describe what those documents are?
- A. These documents are documents that don't
- 3 have an author's name on them, so this list is
- 4 compiled in alphabetical order based on first author,
- 5 and these nine or so other documents don't have a lead
- 6 author on them. So that's why they were listed at the
- ⁷ end of the report.
- 8 Q. Is it your testimony that those documents
- ⁹ are also documents that are included in the body of
- 10 your report?
- 11 A. Yes.
- Q. And then you also brought with you a large
- 13 binder, Doctor?
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. And what's in that binder?
- A. This binder is my expert overview of
- 17 TVT-Obturator.
- Q. Your report?
- 19 A. My report.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- A. And it has my reliance list. And then the
- 22 next 32 sections are the articles that are cited in
- ²³ this report.
- Q. The reliance list that you have in front of
- 25 you, Doctor -- well, strike that.

- A. February 26, 2016, that's correct.
- Q. And other than a copy of your expert report
- 3 in the binder, you said that there are 32 tabs in the
- 4 binder. What are in those 32 tabs?
- A. So they correspond to the footnotes in the
- 6 report. So for instance, Footnote Number 1 is from
- ⁷ Albo, Burch colposuspension. Then if you go to tab 1,
- 8 it has that article, "Burch Colposuspension" by
- 9 Michael Albo.
- Q. And your expert report has more than 32
- 11 footnotes. You have the other two binders here that
- 12 cover the rest of the footnotes, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. So Doctor, if we take a look at Exhibit 12,
- 15 your expert report in this case, the first section is
- 16 called "Background and Qualifications"; do you see
- 17 that?

- 18 A. Yes.
- Q. And this is a section, for example, that
- 20 you would have originally written for the
- 21 TVT-Retropubic report and largely reproduced here for
- 22 your TVT-O report, correct?
- 23 A. Correct.
- Q. And that section, Section 1, "Background
- 25 and Qualifications, "goes for pages 1, 2, and a

- 1 portion of 3 until a section called "Urinary
- ² Incontinence," correct?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. And then if you go through until page 5,
- the third section is called "Treatment Options For
- 6 SUI," correct?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. Section IV on page 10 is entitled "TVT and
- the Midurethral Sling," correct? 9
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. And that section runs until the top of page
- 12 20, correct?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. Would it be your testimony, Doctor, that
- 15 those first 20 pages of your report are largely the
- same as what you wrote for your TVT-R report?
- A. I would say yes, 70, 80 percent the same.
- 18 There are some additional paragraphs, or maybe some
- 19 new information or new titles or appointments or
- 20 things, accomplishments that I have, so I would say,
- 21 for the most part, it's very similar.
- 22 Q. Great. And then on page --
- 23 A. But the biggest difference would be Section
- 24 B, "Relative Surgical Experience." With each report,
- 25 the last paragraph, I try to include as much detail as

- 1 A. Yes.
 - Q. And that's the year that it first came to

Page 24

Page 25

- 3 market, correct?
- A. I'm not a hundred percent sure that that's
- the year I started using it.
- Q. You've described yourself before as an
- early adopter. Would it make sense for you to have
- started using TVT-O when it first came out?
 - A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Prior to 2004, had you been using any sling
- device to treat stress urinary incontinence?
 - A. Yes.

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- 13 Q. Were you using any sling device that
- 14 utilized the obturator approach?
- 16 Q. Prior to 2004, all of your sling procedures
- 17 were retropubic procedures?
 - A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And from 2004 until 2007, the TVT-Obturator
- 20 was the primary device you used for treatment of
- stress urinary incontinence in your practice?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. So over that three-year period, did you use
- ²⁴ any other polypropylene mesh slings for the treatment
- of stress urinary incontinence other than the

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- 1 I can on my experience with that specific product.
- Q. And you're talking about on page 3, the
- 3 paragraph that begins with, "I used TVT-Obturator from
- 4 2004 to 2010"?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- Q. And then on page 20, you actually start
- with a Section B, which is "TVT-Obturator History."
- And that's all new material as compared to your TVT-R
- 9 report, correct?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. So let's talk about that one paragraph
- 12 that's different from your R report on page 3. Do you
- 13 have that in front of you?
- 14 A. I do.
- 15 Q. Doctor, on page 3 of your expert report,
- 16 you state that "I used the TVT-Obturator from 2004
- 17 until 2010, and TVT-Obturator was the most commonly
- 18 performed procedure for SUI in my practice from 2004
- 19 to 2007." Is that what you wrote?
- 20 A. That's what I wrote.
- Q. And is that correct? Is that accurate as
- 22 you're sitting here today?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. So you began to use the TVT-Obturator
- 25 device in 2004?

- 1 TVT-Obturator?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What else did you use in that time frame?
- A. With respect to mesh slings?
- Q. Yes.
- A. I used the TVT, just what was known as TVT,
- which was a retropubic system. Some people call it
- the TVT-Classic or TVT-Retropubic.
- Q. So in the period between 2004 and 2007, you
- only used Ethicon products for the treatment of stress
- 11 urinary incontinence if you were using a mesh sling,
- 12 correct?

13

- A. For the most part. There was a transition
- period I was using products from American Medical
- 15 Systems before 2004, and so there may have been some
- 16 overlap with those products. And then depending on
- 17 what hospital I operated at, so for instance at the VA
- 18 Hospital, they may not have had the Ethicon products,
- just the American Medical System products, so I used 20 their product.
- 21 Q. Have you ever used the AMS Obturator sling?
- 22 A. I don't believe so. I've used the AMS
- 23 Sparc, BioArc, MiniArc and MiniArc Precise with
- 24 respect to sling surgery.
 - Q. And are those all retropubic slings?

- A. So the BioArc and the Sparc were retropubic
- 2 slings, and then the MiniArc is a transobturator
- ³ mini-sling. It anchors into the obturator internus.
- Q. And when did you start to use the MiniArc?
- 5 A. I would have to go back and look at my
- 6 notes, but it was probably sometime in and around when
- 7 it first became available, 2008, maybe 2009. I don't
- 8 know the exact date.
- 9 Q. When you began to use -- strike that.
- So between 2004 and 2007, you primarily used
- 11 the TVT-Retropubic and the TVT-Obturator slings,
- 12 correct?
- 13 A. Correct.
- Q. In 2007, that changed, correct?
- 15 A. Correct.
- Q. What changed in 2007?
- A. I continued to do TVT-Obturator, but I did
- 18 TVT-Secur more commonly after that date. So I had
- 19 done primarily TVT-Obturator, let's say, maybe 70, 80
- 20 percent of the mesh slings I did, and then gradually
- 21 that was replaced, for the most part, by TVT-Secur.
- 21 that was replaced, for the most part, by 1 v 1-secu
- 22 But there were some patients that I still preferred
- 23 TVT-Obturator on.
- Q. And so in the time frame between 2007 and
- 25 2010, is it fair to say that the TVT-Secur was the

- 1 it performed.
- Q. Did you feel that the TVT-Abbrevo had any
- 3 clinical benefits over the TVT-Obturator?
- 4 A. The biggest benefit that I noticed was
- 5 there was less transient groin pain with the
- 6 TVT-Abbrevo.
- 7 Q. So the primary difference in your practice
- 8 between the TVT-Abbrevo and the TVT-O was you actually

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- 9 noticed a decrease in thigh pain with the use of the
- O Abbrevo as compared to the O, correct?
- 11 MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
- 12 A. That's incorrect.

13

- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) I'm sorry. Tell me what
- 14 benefit, if any, you felt that you realized from using
- 15 the Abbrevo as compared to the O.
- A. Well, what I had said was that it was
- 17 transient groin pain, so there was improvement in
- 18 transient groin pain. But if you look at the amount
- 19 of groin pain they had at three months or at a year,
- 20 it was very similar. And that's what the literature
- 21 shows as well. And my experience was similar.
- Q. So you chose to use the Abbrevo instead of
- 23 the O, correct?
- 24 A. Correct.
- Q. One of the reasons that you said that you

- 1 primary sling you were using?
- 2 A. Approximately those dates.
- Q. And then so in that time frame between 2007
- 4 and 2010, how many TVT-Obturators do you think you
- 5 utilized?
- 6 A. Not that many. Probably less than 20.
- 7 Q. And then in 2010 you stopped using
- 8 TVT-Obturator altogether. Is that because the Abbrevo
- 9 came out?
- 10 A. Correct.
- Q. Once the TVT-Abbrevo came out, did you stop
- 12 using TVT-Obturator full-length slings altogether?
- A. I believe that's so. There may have been
- 14 an exception here and there, but I can't think of an
- 15 instance where I would have preferred to use that over
- 16 TVT-Abbrevo.
- Q. And why was that? Why did you prefer the
- 18 TVT-Abbrevo over the TVT-Obturator?
- A. I thought they were very similar products.
- 20 And as I mentioned earlier in other depositions, I do
- 21 like trying new products. I tend to be on that first
- 22 wave. And TVT-Abbrevo was something that I was
- 23 introduced to very early on, and I was involved in a
- 24 video regarding TVT-Abbrevo. And to me, it just
- 25 seemed very similar to TVT-Obturator. And I liked how

- 1 chose to use the Abbrevo instead of the O is because
- 2 you felt that with the Abbrevo, your patients had less
- 3 transient groin pain when you used the Abbrevo as
- 4 compared to the O, correct?
- A. Correct.
- 6 Q. And so you felt that the Abbrevo was a
- 7 better product than the O for that reason, correct?
- 8 MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
- 9 A. I felt that it provided less pain for the
- 10 patient transiently, so I was able to discharge them
- 11 the same day, send them home on less pain pills. They
- 12 had an earlier return to activity and to employment,
- 13 and so that was an advantage.
- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) And those advantages of
- 15 the TVT-Abbrevo over the TVT-Obturator, those, as you
- said, are recognized in the literature as well,
- 17 correct?
- A. Yes. If you look at the Hinoul study,
- de Leval study, there was a few early studies on --
- that did demonstrate less transient groin pain, but
- 21 the benefits evened out by three months in those
- 22 studies. So there wasn't a long-term benefit in terms
- 23 of reduced groin pain.
- Q. But that was certainly a benefit that you
- 25 could bring to your patients, correct? You could say

- $^{1}\,$ to your patients -- well, let me ask you, Doctor, when
- 2 you were discussing with your patients the various
- ³ options for treatment of their stress urinary
- 4 incontinence, did you discuss with them both the
- 5 Abbrevo and the TVT-Obturator as options?
- A. I discussed all the midurethral slings, and
- 7 I discussed all the options of stress urinary
- 8 incontinence with my patients, yes.
- 9 Q. And when you were discussing, in
- 10 particular, the use of the Abbrevo as compared to the
- 11 full-length TVT-O, you told them that there were
- 12 certain benefits that you were seeing in your practice
- associated with using the Abbrevo, correct?
- 14 A. Correct.
- Q. And the benefits you told your patients
- ¹⁶ were that, one, you were seeing that -- and you
- believed they would have less transient groin pain if
- 18 you used the Abbrevo as compared to the O, correct?
- ¹⁹ A. Correct.
- Q. And you also told them that your experience
- 21 was that your patients would have a shorter
- 22 convalescence from the procedure if you used the
- 23 Abbrevo as compared to the O, correct?
- 24 A. Correct.
- Q. That they would be able to return to work

- Page 32
 Q. So would it be fair to say an index patient
- ² is what one would think of as a common patient that
- ³ ob/gyns are seeing in their practice who has stress
- 4 urinary incontinence?
- A. It would be unique to the practice. I'm
- 6 not an ob/gyn, but from my discussions with ob/gyn
- 7 colleagues, yes, that's typically the patient they
- 8 see.

15

21

- 9 Q. So if we're talking about that typical
- patient that's seen by a physician trying to determine
- 11 how to treat stress urinary incontinence, in that
- 12 situation, you would choose, and chose in your
- 13 practice, to use the TVT-Abbrevo as compared to the
- 14 TVT-Obturator, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And that's, in part, for the reasons that
- we just discussed, that the beneficial outcomes that
- 18 you would see related to pain management and being
- ¹⁹ able to return to activities more quickly with the
- 20 TVT-Abbrevo as compared to the TVT-O, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Is there any reason for an index patient or
- 23 a typical patient where you would choose the
- 24 TVT-Obturator over the Abbrevo?
 - A. If the patient requested it. Oftentimes

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- 1 more quickly if you used the Abbrevo as compared to
- 2 the O, correct?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. And that they would have less time -- they
- 5 would be able to return to activities and the
- 6 activities of daily living more quickly if you used
- 7 the Abbrevo as compared to the TVT-O, correct?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. Did you find that there was any -- you've
- 10 described an index patient before; is that right,
- 11 Doctor?
- You know what the definition of an index
- 13 patient is, or what your definition of an index
- 14 patient is?
- A. I can tell you what my definition is.
- Q. What is an index patient?
- A. An index patient is a term that has been
- 18 described by the American Urologic Association in
- 19 their SUI guidelines. And that patient is a patient
- 20 that is a more straightforward patient, so they have
- 21 genuine stress urinary incontinence and they don't
- 22 have any complicating factors. They tend to have
- 23 low-volume incontinence. So that's a patient that
- 24 people in community practices in urology and
- 25 urogynecology and female pelvic medicine see commonly.

1 patients have done a significant amount of research.

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- 2 Maybe they have a friend or family member that have
- 3 had a certain product and have had a good outcome, and
- 4 oftentimes they come in requesting that. And if it
- 5 seems reasonable, I explain to them the risks and
- 6 benefits of both procedures and let them decide. So
- 7 there would be a few exceptions, as I mentioned, you
- 8 know, between 2007 and present.
- 9 Q. But from your clinical perspective, your
- 0 preference is for the Abbrevo over the TVT-Obturator,
- 11 correct?

12

- MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
- A. Again, it would depend on the unique
- 14 patient, but yeah, I transitioned from TVT-Obturator
- 15 to TVT-Abbrevo in 2010. And I haven't transitioned
- 16 back, or made any changes in that.
- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) So Doctor, are there any
- 18 other benefits that you saw in your clinical practice
- ⁹ or that you believe exist for using the Abbrevo as
- 20 compared to the TVT-O?
- A. No, that was it, just the transient
- 22 perioperative benefits that I noticed.
 - Q. You treat -- a large part of your practice
- 24 is treating complications that women have suffered
 - 5 from mesh implants, correct?

MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.

- A. It's part of my practice, yes.
- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) And in treating women who
- 4 have slings and complications from those slings, do
- ⁵ you believe there's a benefit to treating a woman who
- 6 has an Abbrevo as compared to a TVT-Obturator?
 - A. No.
- 8 Q. Do you believe that it is -- strike that.
- 9 Have you ever removed a TVT-Abbrevo?
- 10 A. Yes.
- Q. Have you ever removed a TVT-Obturator?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Can you describe the differences in the
- 14 outcomes for those procedures?
- 15 A. The procedures are very similar. It just
- 16 depends on what you're removing and where their
- 17 complaint is. The overwhelming majority of them, we
- 18 would remove part of the vaginal portion of the mesh,
- 19 so that's the part of the mesh lying below the
- 20 midurethra, maybe extending towards the obturator
- 21 internus. But it would be unique to the patient based
- 22 upon where their pain was located at. But the
- 23 procedures, the outcomes, it would be very similar,
- ²⁴ from my recall. I've never looked at it formally,
- 25 though.

- 1 A. 12 centimeters.
 - Q. So when you remove an Abbrevo, how much of

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- 3 that 12 centimeters are you typically removing?
- 4 A. Typically somewhere around 5 to 6
- 5 centimeters.

6

- Q. And so leaving behind roughly 6 centimeters
- 7 of mesh, correct?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And when you remove a TVT-O, how much mesh
- 10 do you typically leave behind?
- A. Well, we remove the same amount, 5 to 6
- 12 centimeters, and if the average TVT-O is 18, then it
- 13 would be around 12 centimeters.
- Q. So when you remove a TVT-O, you're leaving
- 15 behind roughly twice the mesh as when you remove a
- 16 TVT-Abbrevo; is that fair?
- A. Sounds about right.
 - Q. Is that a discussion that you have with
- 19 your patients when removing a mesh?
- 20 A. No.

18

21

- Q. Is that a factor that you considered when
- 22 you decided it use the TVT-Abbrevo instead of the
- 23 TVT-O?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. In 2004, Doctor, you started to use the

Page 35

- Q. When you treat -- is the Abbrevo considered
- 2 a mini-sling?
- 3 A. It's not.
- 4 Q. Does the Abbrevo go through the obturator
- 5 membrane?
- 6 A. It does.
- 7 Q. Does it go through the obturator muscles
- 8 internus?
- 9 A. Both the internus and externus.
- Q. When you remove an Abbrevo, do you leave
- 11 mesh behind, typically?
- A. In most cases, yeah. 95 percent of the
- 13 time we would leave mesh behind, yes.
- Q. When you remove a TVT-Obturator, do you
- 15 leave behind more mesh than you do when you remove a
- 16 TVT-Abbrevo, typically?
- 17 A. Typically, yes.
- Q. And that's because the TVT-Obturator has
- 19 more mesh already in the body, correct?
- A. The TVT-Obturator is a longer sling. It's
- 21 45 centimeters out of the box. What typically ends up
- 22 in the average patient is somewhere around 18
- 23 centimeters.
- Q. And what typically ends up in the patient
- 25 with an Abbrevo?

- 1 TVT-Obturator sling, correct?
- 2 A. Correct.
- Q. Were you aware that in that same time frame
- 4 in 2004, that Ethicon was working with Dr. de Leval to
- 5 address the groin and thigh pain that they were seeing
- 6 with the TVT-O sling?
- A. I was not aware of what interactions they
- 8 were having with Dr. de Leval.
- 9 Q. Were you aware that in early 2004 that
- Ethicon was meeting with Dr. de Leval to address --
- 11 strike that.
- Were you aware in 2004 that Ethicon was
- 13 meeting with Dr. de Leval to discuss using a shorter
- 14 sling to lessen the thigh and groin pain that they
- ¹⁵ were seeing with the TVT-O device?
 - MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
- A. Are you asking me if I was aware of that in
- 18 2004?

16

- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) First I'd like to talk
- 20 about, yes, were you aware of that in 2004?
- 21 A. No.
 - Q. So for the period of time from 2004 until
- 23 you switched to the TVT-Abbrevo, you weren't aware,
- ²⁴ during that time frame, that Ethicon knew there was an
- 25 issue with groin and thigh pain with the TVT-O and

- 1 were having discussions with de Leval about using a 2 shorter sling to lessen that groin and thigh pain?
- 3 MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
- 4
- A. I've only become aware recently of the
- 5 discussions. I have been an expert for the last few
- 6 years, and I've seen internal documents. And I've
- 7 reviewed studies from de Leval comparing the
- 8 abbreviated version of TVT-O, so I wouldn't say until
- 9 2009 or 2010 did I become aware of TVT-Abbrevo, or
- 10 whatever it was called, its prototype.
- 11 Q. (By Mr. Zonies) So would it be fair to
- 12 say, Doctor, that given the benefits that you saw with
- 13 the transient groin pain associated with using the
- 14 Abbrevo, that had the Abbrevo been introduced in 2004,
- 15 you likely would have gone straight to the Abbrevo
- 16 because it had benefits for your patients?
- 17 A. Not necessarily.
- 18 Q. Why not?
- 19 A. You know, it's a decision. Any time a new
- 20 product comes out, there's a lot of factors that go
- 21 into the decision, and so I have to look at all of
- 22 those factors before I make that decision.
- 23 Q. But it's certainly clear that at the time
- 24 the TVT-Abbrevo came to market, you stopped using the
- 25 TVT-O, correct?

- Page 39
- A. Incorrect. 1
- Q. Doctor, is it true that when the
- 3 TVT-Abbrevo came to market, you largely stopped using
- 4 the TVT-Obturator device and began using the
- 5 TVT-Abbrevo? Correct?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And that, as we have discussed, was because
- 8 you saw certain benefits for your patients when you
- 9 used the TVT-Abbrevo, the -- as you said, the
- 10 abbreviated version of the TVT-O, correct?
- 11 MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
- 12 A. Can you repeat the question?
- 13 Q. (By Mr. Zonies) Sure.
- 14 You started to use the TVT-Abbrevo instead
- 15 of the O because you saw benefits for your patients
- particularly around the transient groin pain when you
- 17 used the Abbrevo instead of the O, correct?
- 18 MR. KOOPMANN: Same objection.
- 19 A. Incorrect.
- 20 Q. (By Mr. Zonies) Abbrevo has two Bs, right?
- 21 A. Yes. A-b-b-r-e-v-o.
- 22 Q. Doctor, in your practice, you continued to
- 23 use the TVT-Abbrevo instead of the TVT-Obturator in
- 24 part because you felt there was a clinical benefit for
- 25 your patients regarding pain; is that correct?

- Page 40
- A. As I stated earlier, I felt that there was
- 2 a benefit in having less transient groin pain.
- Q. And had the Abbrevo been available for your
- 4 use earlier in 2009 or 2008 or 2007, and you saw that
- same benefit for your clients, isn't it likely that
- you would have made the switch to the Abbrevo earlier?
 - A. There's a possibility. I can't say for
- sure. I saw some of the literature on TVT-Abbrevo. I
- mentioned earlier that I was interested in trying new
- products. There was some reasons there why I switched
- 11 to TVT-Abbrevo.

12

- Q. And what were those reasons?
- 13 A. As I stated, it was a new product. I like
- 14 trying new products. It was proposed as having less
- pain for the patient in the transient postop period.
- Dr. Hinoul had done some work on that. Dr. de Leval
- had looked at the TVT-O and the modified TVT-O, and so
- I was interested in trying TVT-O. And once I started
- using the product, it performed very well in my hands.
- 20 Q. And you found, actually, that you got that
- 21 clinical benefit of less pain for your clients. They could return to activities and work more quickly, and
- had a better convalescence when you used the Abbrevo
- as compared to the O, correct?
- MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
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- A. I would say correct.
- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) And that's a benefit that
- you would have wanted to bring to your clients as soon
- as possible, correct -- "clients," sorry.
- That's a benefit that you would have wanted
- 6 to bring to your patients as soon as possible,
- correct?
- 8 A. Not necessarily.
- Q. Do you want your patients to suffer pain
- 10 unnecessarily?
 - A. I don't.
- 12 Q. It's a benefit for them to have less pain,
- 13 isn't it?

11

- A. The surgical decision-making is a balance,
- okay, between efficacy and safety. And so we have to
- factor all of those things in when making our
- 17 decisions.
- 18 Q. But you made the decision clearly in your
 - practice that the Abbrevo was preferred over the O,
- correct? 20

21

- MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
- A. I evolved to that decision. Usually we try
- new products, and we make a decision if we want to
- persist with them or go back to the product that we
- ²⁵ were using previous.

Q. (By Mr. Zonies) And you chose to evolve and stay with, as you said, the TVT-Abbrevo over the

³ TVT-O since 2010, primarily, correct?

- A. That's correct.
- 5 Q. And that's a decision you made because you
- 6 felt there were -- that the Abbrevo was a better
- 7 product for your patients, correct?
- 8 MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
- 9 A. I wouldn't use the word "better."
- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) It had benefits for your
- patients particularly around groin pain and being able
- 12 to return to activities more quickly, correct?
- 13 A. Correct.
- Q. Those are benefits you would like to bring
- 15 to your patients as soon as they're available to bring
- 16 to them, correct?
- A. Incorrect. I stated earlier, you have that
- ¹⁸ balance, so if someone, you know, gets better sooner
- ¹⁹ but doesn't have the same efficacy long-term, then
- 20 that's not necessarily something I want to bring to
- 21 patients.
- Q. But you made the choice -- as you sit here
- 23 today, you believe that the Abbrevo has similar
- ²⁴ efficacy to the TVT-Obturator, correct?
- 25 A. Correct.

- e 1 over a TVT-Abbrevo?
 - 2 MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
 - 3 A. Sitting here today with the information and
 - 4 experience I had with both products, no, there'd be no
 - 5 reason I would use a TVT-O over the TVT-Abbrevo unless

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- 6 the patient had requested that.
- 7 Q. (By Mr. Zonies) When do you think the last
- 8 time was that you used a TVT-Obturator?
 - A. I would think somewhere around maybe 2011
- or 2012. I don't know the exact date. I know in 2010
- that's when I made the switch primarily. Again, there
- may have been some overlap or some differences based
- 13 on what hospital I was at.
- Q. And you, in fact, became a key opinion
 - leader for TVT-Abbrevo; is that right?
- A. I don't know how I was characterized by
- 17 Ethicon, but I was an early adopter of TVT-Abbrevo. I
- 18 did the video on TVT-Abbrevo. I did professional
- 19 education events on TVT-Abbrevo.
- Q. And you created a training video for the
- 21 TVT-Abbrevo that Ethicon asked you to do, correct?
- A. I would say "create" is too strong of a
- 23 word. I partnered with them on that project.
- Q. So you partnered with Ethicon to create a
- 25 training video for the TVT-Abbrevo, correct?

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- Q. And it has less pain associated with its
- 2 use, correct?
- 3 MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
- 4 A. Less transient groin pain, correct.
- 5 Q. (By Mr. Zonies) And it allows your
- 6 patients to return to work more quickly, correct?
- A. Correct.
- 8 Q. It allows your patients to return to
- 9 activities of daily living more quickly, correct?
- 10 A. Correct.
- Q. Those are all benefits on complications
- 12 with similar efficacy, correct?
- A. Can you restate that? That word
- 14 "complications," I'm not sure what you mean by that.
- 15 Q. Sure.
- So in your expert opinion, the Abbrevo has
- 17 similar efficacy to the TVT-O, correct?
- 18 A. Correct.
- Q. And the Abbrevo has added benefits as
- 20 compared to the TVT-O primarily around transient groin
- 21 pain, correct?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And so is there any reason, as you sit here
- 24 today, that you would choose, from a clinical
- 25 perspective, to use a TVT-Obturator full-length sling

- Page 45
- ² could film one of my cases on TVT-Abbrevo.
- Q. And then Ethicon, as you know, used that
- 4 video to market the TVT-Abbrevo device, correct?

A. They approached me and asked me if they

- A. I don't know what they did with it. I gave
- 6 them permission to use the video content and edit it
- 7 and use it as they see fit.
- 8 Q. And you also -- and Ethicon compensated you
- 9 for making that video, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. You also were -- Ethicon partnered with you
- 12 to do professional education for the TVT-Abbrevo,
- 13 correct?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And that entailed your traveling to events
 - 6 to discuss the benefits of the TVT-Abbrevo with other
- 17 doctors, correct?
- A. Very limited. As I mentioned earlier, my
 - 9 contract and my consulting with them ended around
- 20 2011, so there was a brief period of time there, less
- 21 than a year, that I did professional education. My
- 22 professional education with TVT-Abbrevo centered
- 23 largely around that video.
- Q. And in that video and at these various
- ²⁵ professional education events, you would discuss how

- 1 you felt that the Abbrevo had advantages over the ² TVT-Obturator, correct?
- A. I don't remember discussing risks and
- 4 benefits. It was primarily on how to do the
- 5 procedure, how it's performed, that that was the focus 6 of the video.
- Q. Do you recall that when you made those 8 presentations, you would actually inform physicians
- 9 that you were teaching that the Abbrevo, in your
- 10 hands, had less transient groin pain and allowed your
- 11 patients to return to work and activities more quickly
- 12 and, therefore, you felt it was a better procedure
- 13 than TVT-O?
- 14 A. I don't recall saying that.
- 15 Q. Might you have said that?
- 16 A. I don't know. It was -- when I was an
- ¹⁷ early adopter, usually I liked to do a certain number
- 18 of cases before I speak very strongly about the
- 19 product until I gain some personal experience with the
- 20 device, so I don't think I would have necessarily said
- 21 that, since I had just started using the product.
- 22 Q. Now, on page 20 of your expert report,
- 23 Doctor, there's a section entitled "TVT-Obturator
- 24 History"; do you see that?
- 25 A. I do.

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- 1 Q. And in the last sentence there, you say,
- 2 "Anatomic studies have shown that the mesh traverses
- 3 less muscular structures and lies on average 2 to 3
- 4 centimeters from the obturator nerve when placed
- 5 properly," and you cite the Hinoul; is that right?
- A. I think what it is doing is comparing,
- 7 yeah, the early TVT-O procedure to the outside-to-in
- 8 obturator procedures. So I think, you know, when this
- 9 makes that comment, that's what it's comparing itself
- 10 to, the inside-out versus the outside-in.
- 11 Q. So --
- 12 A. I'm sorry. Let me take that back.
- 13 Compared to the TVT product.
- 14 Q. Okay. And that -- you're predicting my
- 15 questions on this part, which is, on page 20 of your
- report, Doctor, you say, "Anatomic studies have shown
- 17 that the mesh traverses less muscular structures."
- 18 When you say that in your report, you're
- 19 saying that a TVT-Obturator mesh traverses less
- 20 muscular structures than does the TVT-Retropubic?
- A. No, that's not correct. Let me restate
- 22 that. I think that that comment is a comment with
- 23 reference to comparison between the TVT-Obturator and
- 24 the modified TVT-Obturator. That's what that
- ²⁵ reference is for.

- 1 Q. So you think that reference is the
 - 2 TVT-Obturator as compared to the Abbrevo, correct?

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- A. Correct.
- Q. So when you say that "Anatomic studies have
- 5 shown that the mesh traverses less muscular
- 6 structures," what you mean is that -- why is that
- 7 important, that the mesh traverses less muscular
- structures?
- A. I think the thought is that if there's less
- structures that it traverses, then there's a potential
- 11 to have less pain.
- 12 Q. And from your experience, in fact, because
- the TVT-Abbrevo traverses less muscular structures
- 14 than does the TVT-Obturator, you actually have
- experience that your patients have less pain, correct?
- 16
 - MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
- 17 A. They have less transient groin pain.
 - Q. (By Mr. Zonies) And that is a benefit that
- 19 the Abbrevo has over the TVT-Obturator, correct?
- 20 A. Correct.

21

- Q. Why do you think it's important to note in
- 22 your report that the mesh lies, on average, 2 to 3
- centimeters from the obturator nerve when placed? Why
- 24 is that important?
- A. What was emphasized is that you want to
 - Page 49
- 1 stay medial in the foramen, or away from the vessels 2 and the nerves. The reason for that is there is less
- potential to cause pain or bleeding.
- Q. So there's a nerve bundle, sometimes called
- the obturator nerve bundle, that is near where the
- TVT-O mesh goes; is that correct?
- A. They're in the same foramen. They're about
- 3 centimeters away from each other.
- Q. And so when placing the TVT-Obturator
- device, it's important to be aware of this proximity
- to the nerves so that you don't have complications
- associated with pain; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And so that you don't have complications
- 15 associated with nerve damage, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- 17 Q. So one of the risks associated with using
- the TVT-Obturator device is nerve damage and pain
- associated with nerve damage that can occur if you
- 20 don't place the mesh correctly?
- 21 A. Yes.

13

- 22 Q. And those obturator nerves as you -- you
- 23 actually have a picture on page 21 of your report
- 24 where you show that 2-and-a-half to 3-centimeter space
- 25 that is the foramen, correct?

Case 2:12-md-02327 Document 2130-10 Filed 05/05/16 Page 15 of 30 PageID #: 52818 Page 50 Page 52 1 A. Yes. ¹ foramen. 2 Q. And you show little branches of nerves Q. And did you actually participate in that 3 coming off of that area, correct? 3 study?

A. Correct. 5 Q. And you know from your training and

6 experience that those nerves are differently placed in patients, correct?

A. Incorrect. I find them to be fairly

9 consistent, in the same location. 10 Q. You do, okay.

11 And have you -- when implanting a TVT-O 12 device, to your knowledge, have you ever had a patient

who had nerve pain?

14 A. Have I ever had a patient that I implanted 15 with nerve pain?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And was that because you didn't properly do

19 the procedure, or some other reason?

20 A. It's hard to say. I can't be certain it

21 was even nerve pain. They had groin pain. And groin

22 pain could be a variety of things. But I certainly

23 have had patients that have had groin pain after a

24 TVT-Obturator or TVT-Abbrevo.

25 Q. Have you ever had a patient that you A. I did.

5 Q. Was that study ever published?

Q. And what were the results of that study?

A. The results were that the products were

⁹ very similar in terms of their location to the

10 obturator nerve bundle. There were some very slight

differences in the location, but there was no clinical

correlation. It was just a purely cadaveric anatomic

radiographic study.

14 Q. Did you feel that the techniques that were 15 used in that study were valid and reliable techniques?

16 A. There were some limitations, but I think,

for the most part, it was valid.

18 Q. Do you cite to that study in the body of 19 your report?

20 A. I would have to take a look here. Yeah, we

did cite that. It's a 2011 article, "Anatomic

22 comparison" -- no, that's the other. No, I don't see

23 it here. There's one study from Peter Hinoul that we

Page 53

cited, but I don't believe we cited that article.

O. And who was the lead author on that

Page 51

1 implanted with a TVT-O device that had persistent,

2 chronic groin or thigh pain?

A. I can't think of a patient. Or there may

4 be one out there that didn't return to me for

⁵ follow-up, but I'm not immediately aware of anybody.

Q. You were actually asked to do a study on

⁷ the proximity of the TVT-O mesh to the nerve bundle;

8 is that correct?

A. We did a study comparing the anatomical 9

10 position of TVT-O versus Monarc. I think that may be

11 the study you're referring to.

12 Q. And can you -- with whom did you do that

13 study?

A. That was a study that was sponsored by

15 Ethicon. Myself, Dr. Mark Walters were the two

16 physicians that did the cadaveric work on that. There

17 was radiology people involved. Dr. Peter Hinoul was

18 involved. There were about five or six physicians

19 that were in the project.

20 Q. And that project was to determine whether

21 the TVT-Obturator was -- when implanted properly, was

22 closer to the obturator bundle than the Monarc; is

23 that correct?

24 A. We wished to compare the two, TVT-O versus

25 Monarc, and their anatomical position in the obturator

1 article?

A. Piet Hinoul.

Q. And where was that published?

A. I believe the -- I could look on my CV.

⁵ It's on my CV.

Q. Doctor, I'm going to hand you what's been

marked previously as Exhibit 5. That's your CV, I

believe, correct?

9 A. Yes, that's correct.

Q. And can you find that study on your CV,

11 please?

10

12 A. So it published in 2013. And the title was

13 "A novel radiographic technique to assess implant

grafts in the female pelvis: a comparison of the

15 Inside-Out and Outside-in transobturator and

midurethral sling positioning." And it's published in

Obstetrics and Gynecology Journal, 2013.

18 Q. Doctor, I'm wondering why that paper isn't 19 cited in your report.

20 A. I didn't feel there was anything real

significant that came out of that study, so it wasn't

something that I needed to rely on in basing my

opinions. 23

24 Q. And it's also not on your reliance

²⁵ materials; is that correct?

- 1 A. That's correct.
- Q. Do you recall, Dr. Flynn, what the
- 3 conclusions of that study that you did were with
- 4 regard to -- strike that.
- 5 The study, Doctor, that's not referenced in
- 6 your report and not on your reliance materials that
- 7 you did with Ethicon with Dr. Hinoul was comparing the
- 8 distance from the obturator nerve bundle when using a
- 9 TVT-Obturator as compared to the AMS Obturator device,
- 10 correct?
- 11 A. Correct.
- Q. And do you recall what the conclusion was
- 13 that was reached in that study about the distance of
- 14 those two devices from the obturator bundle?
- A. I would have to look at the study again. I
- 16 don't recall the conclusion.
- Q. It was -- distance from the obturator
- 18 bundle is important enough to do a study on, correct?
- 19 A. Correct.
- Q. Because if the TVT-Obturator actually came
- 21 closer to the obturator bundle, it could increase the
- 22 risk of nerve pain and nerve damage when using the
- 23 TVT-Obturator as compared to the AMS device, correct?
- 24 A. Correct.
- Q. And if studies demonstrated that the

- In that sentence, Doctor, you're comparing
- ² Dr. de Leval's inside-out technique to Dr. Delorme's

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- ³ outside-in technique, correct?
- 4 A. There's a lot in that paragraph. It's just
- ⁵ generally describing why it was created and what the
- 6 goals of it were.
- 7 Q. And one of the goals that you opine about
- 8 is that the inside-out approach, as used with the
- 9 TVT-O -- one of the benefits of that approach was that
- 10 you would be further from the obturator nerves and
- 11 obturator bundle, correct?
 - A. Correct.

12

13

- Q. As compared to the AMS device, correct?
- A. Any device in general. There's a number of
- 15 outside-to-in devices.
- Q. Okay. As compared to any outside-in
- 17 device, correct?
- 8 A. Yes.
- Q. And you say that one of the benefits for
- 20 patients of being further from the obturator bundle is
- 21 reducing potential complications from stress urinary
- 22 incontinence surgery, correct?
- 23 A. Correct.
- Q. So you would agree, Doctor, that if the
- 25 TVT-Obturator consistently was demonstrated to be

- 1 TVT-Obturator consistently came closer to the
- 2 obturator nerve bundle than the AMS Obturator device,
- 3 that's something that you as a treating physician
- 4 would want to know, correct?
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. And that's something that, as a treating
- 7 physician, might inform your decision whether to use
- 8 the TVT-Obturator or the AMS device, correct?
- 9 A. Correct.
- Q. So if you turn to page 21 of your report,
- 11 Doctor, you say -- have you got that?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. You say in the first paragraph, about
- 14 midway through, "The unique inside-to-out approach
- 15 created by Dr. de Leval to allow a greater distance
- 16 between the implanted mesh and the obturator nerve,
- 17 thereby reducing potential complications in SUI
- 18 surgery"; is that what you wrote?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. And what you mean there is that
- 21 Dr. de Leval's inside-out procedure as compared to
- 22 Dr. Delorme's outside-in procedure, as used with the
- 23 AMS product, it was your expert opinion that the
- 24 inside-out -- one of the benefits -- that was messy,
- 25 so let me start that over.

- 1 closer to the obturator nerve bundle than an
- 2 outside-in mesh, that there would be more risk with
- 3 the TVT-O of nerve damage, correct?
- A. Incorrect. Not necessarily.
- 5 Q. If the TVT-Obturator were closer to the
- 6 nerves consistently than an outside-in device,
- 7 wouldn't that increase the likelihood or the risk of
- 8 having nerve damage?
- 9 A. The distance would have to be a significant
- distance, and it would have to be statistically
- 11 significant as well as clinically significant. If
- 12 we're talking about a few millimeters, I don't think
- 13 that's clinically significant. I don't think it's
- 14 statistically significant.
- Q. I notice that, when you wrote this
 - sentence, you didn't cite to any science to support
- 17 your expert opinion. Why is that?
- A. Because these are theoretical goals, you
- -9 know, that were proposed by Dr. de Leval, so this is
- 20 Dr. de Leval's thoughts and why he created the device.
- 21 Later in the report I do cite information on the
- 22 incidence of groin pain. I do that in great detail
- 23 later on. And we discuss the systematic reviews and
- 24 the RCTs and the meta-analyses with respect to the TVT
- 25 and TVT-O product.

Q. So is it fair to say, then, that this

- ² statement that the inside-to-out approach allows a
- ³ greater distance between the mesh and the obturator
- 4 nerve, thereby reducing potential complications, is it
- ⁵ fair to say that that is not your expert opinion?
- A. It's my expert opinion that that's why
- ⁷ Dr. de Leval created the device. He wanted to allow a
- 8 greater distance between the mesh and the obturator
- 9 nerve. That's what that statement says.
- Q. And what is your expert opinion, if you
- 11 have any, on whether or not that is a benefit that was
- 12 realized with the TVT-O?
- In other words, is it your expert opinion
- 14 that the TVT-O does, in fact, allow the mesh to lie
- ¹⁵ further from the obturator nerve than does an
- 16 outside-in mesh?
- A. It's very controversial, so you'll have
- 18 some reports that say the outside-to-in is superior
- 19 and others who say the inside-to-out is superior.
- Q. And I notice, Doctor, that you do not cite
- 21 in your expert report or in your reliance materials
- 22 the Zahn study, Z-a-h-n, which I'll hand to you as
- 23 Exhibit 13.
- 24 (Exhibit 13 was marked for identification.)
- MR. KOOPMANN: A copy for me, Counsel?

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- Q. And the difference is not a function of a
- ² few millimeters, it's actually 1 centimeter
- ³ difference, correct?
- 4 A. Correct.
- Q. So this study demonstrates that the
- ⁶ TVT-Obturator is statistically significantly closer to
- ⁷ the obturator nerve and bundle than is the Monarc,
- 8 correct?

13

18

- A. According to this study.
- Q. And that distance of 1 centimeter closer to
- 11 the obturator nerve bundle, that is a significant
- difference, correct, clinically?
 - A. Clinically, 1 centimeter is a big distance,
- 14 yes, in surgery.
 - Q. And I notice also that you did not cite to,
- ¹⁶ in your report or your reliance materials, the Achtari
- 17 study, A-c-h-t-a-r-i; is that correct?
 - A. That is correct.
- (Exhibit 14 was marked for identification.)
- Q. And I'm handing you Exhibit 14, Doctor,
- 21 which is the Achtari study. And see in the
- 22 conclusions in the abstract, it says, "The in-out
- 23 technique" -- that would be the TVT-Obturator,
- 24 correct?
- A. Correct.

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- 1 MR. ZONIES: I do.
- 2 MR. KOOPMANN: Thank you.
- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) Have you ever seen that
- 4 study before, Doctor?
- 5 A. No, I don't believe so.
- Q. And the Zahn study, Doctor, if you look at
- 7 the conclusion, it says, "The outside-in technique
- 8 results in the mesh being placed farther from the
- 9 obturator canal and closer to the ischiopubic ramus,
- 10 theoretically reducing the risk of neurovascular
- 11 injury." Is that what that says?
- 12 A. That's what that says.
- Q. And if you look on the third page of the
- 14 study, page 703 of the journal American College of
- 15 Obstetricians and Gynecologists, there's a Table 1.
- 16 Do you see Table 1?
- 17 A. Yes.

21

- O. And Table 1 describes the distance between
- 19 the transobturator tapes and the obturator canal
- 20 according to left- and right-side placement, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And in Table 1, you can see that there is a
- 23 statistically significant difference between the TVT-O
- ²⁴ and the outside-in approach, correct?
- 25 A. Correct.

- Page 61
- ² obturator canal," correct?
- A. Where are you reading from?
- 4 Q. The abstract conclusion, last sentence,
- ⁵ "The in-out technique is the closest to the obturator

Q. "The in-out technique is the closest to the

- 6 canal." That's what that says, correct?
 - A. That's what that statement says.
- Q. And lastly, Doctor, in your report, you do
- 9 not cite to the Spinosa study, S-p-i-n-o-s-a; is that
- 10 correct?

11

- A. That's correct.
- Q. And it's also not in your reliance
- 13 materials, Doctor. Although, I will say that I
- 14 believe that the study is on one of the thumb drives
- 15 you gave me this morning, okay?
 - A. Maybe.
- 17 (Exhibit 15 was marked for identification.)
- Q. And so I'm handing you Exhibit 15, Doctor,
- which is the Spinosa study. And if you look at the
- "Results" section on the front page, it says, "With
- 21 the inside-out technique" -- that's the TVT-Obturator,
- 22 correct?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. "...the safety margins were reduced and the
- 25 external pudendal vessels and the posterior branch of

- 1 the obturator nerve were at greater risk of injury,"
- 2 is that what that says?
- 3 A. That's what that says.
- Q. This is important information, Doctor, when
- 5 a physician is trying to make a determination whether
- to use the TVT-Obturator or the Monarc, correct?
- A. Correct.
- Q. In fact, the conclusion in Spinosa says,
- ⁹ "The two techniques," meaning outside-in versus
- 10 inside-out, "are not equivalent with a lower risk of
- 11 injury to vascular and nerve structures with the
- 12 outside-in technique." That's what it says in the
- 13 conclusion, correct?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. And you would agree with that if, indeed,
- 16 these studies demonstrated, as they say, that the
- outside-in technique is -- lays the mesh further from
- the obturator bundle, correct?
- 19 A. That's the conclusion of these three
- 20 studies that you've shown me. That's not my own
- personal experience with the device. That's not what
- 22 any of the systematic reviews or RCTs show.
- 23 Q. But that is certainly what these three
- 24 studies that aren't cited in your report, are not in
- your reliance materials -- that is what these three
 - Page 63
- 1 studies demonstrate, correct?
- 2 MR. KOOPMANN: Object to the form.
- A. These are three studies that show that the
- 4 outside-to-in has a greater distance than inside-out.
- That's what these three studies show.
- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) And the three studies show
- 7 that because of that difference, statistically
- significant difference, there is likely a smaller risk
- ⁹ of nerve injury and pain associated with the
- 10 outside-in technique as compared to the inside-out
- 11 technique, correct?
- 12 That's not correct.
- 13 Q. Doctor, if it were true, as these studies
- 14 state, that the inside-out technique places the mesh
- 15 closer to the obturator bundle and, as you've said,
- 16 significantly closer to the obturator bundle, than the
- outside-in technique, as a treating physician, isn't
- 18 that something that you would want to know?
- 19 A. It's one of many factors I want to know.
- 20 These are cadaveric studies. I'm going to rely more
- 21 on my experience, more on clinical studies,
- 22 meta-analyses, much higher levels of evidence than
- 23 these studies that have no more than seven, eight
- 24 cadavers in each study. There's limitations when
- 25 you're placing mesh on cadavers. You can't place the

- Page 64 1 hips in flexion. So I don't know if this is even
- ² necessarily representative of what happens clinically
- 3 when you place a mesh on a cadaver that's lying
- 4 supine.
- Q. But certainly, when you studied the issue,
- 6 you chose to use cadavers, and that was a reliable and
- scientific method, correct?
 - A. Can you repeat the question?
- Q. Sure. When you chose to study whether the
- inside-out or outside-in technique placed the mesh
- closer to the obturator bundle, you studied that using
- cadavers, correct?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. Because that is a reliable and scientific
 - way to study that issue, correct?
- 16 A. Incorrect.
- 17 Q. You don't think that that's a reliable way
- to study the issue?
- 19 A. It's not as reliable as human studies, live
- studies, meta-analyses, systematic reviews. It's one
- way of studying the problem, but there's a lot of
- 22 limitations in the cadaveric studies.
- 23 Q. But Doctor, you would agree that if the
- 24 inside-out technique placed the mesh 1 centimeter
- closer to the obturator nerve bundle, on average, that

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- 1 that you increase the risk of nerve damage, correct?
- 2 A. Correct.
- Q. Doctor, I'm going to hand you what I'm
- 4 marking as Exhibit 16.
- (Exhibit 16 was marked for identification.)
- 6 Q. Have you seen that document before?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What is Exhibit 16?
- A. This is a news article that we had
- published in Urology Times, which is a magazine for
- urologists, that talks about the various midurethral
- 12 slings products.
- 13 Q. And so this is an article that you are a
- co-author on, correct?
 - A. Correct.

15

16

24

- Q. What was your role in writing this article?
- 17 A. I was asked by Urology Times to write an
- article comparing and contrasting the various
- midurethral slings that were on the market.
- 20 Q. And did you actually write this piece?
- 21 A. Yes, myself and my fellow doctor,
- 22 Nikolavsky.
- 23 Q. Nikolavsky, N-i-k-o-l-a-v-s-k-y.
 - That's a physician that you work with?
 - A. A physician I trained. He's no longer with

- 1 me, but he was my fellow at the time we wrote this ² article 2010 to 2011.
- Q. Would you consider yourself the lead author 4 of this article?
- 5 A. Senior author.
- 6 Q. And so question number one, Doctor, is, I
- did not see this article cited in your report or on your reliance materials.
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. I also didn't see it on your CV. Is that
- 11 correct?
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 Q. Is there a reason you chose not to disclose
- 14 this article on your CV or in your report?
- A. Yes.
- 16 Q. What is that reason?
- 17 A. Because this is very low evidence. The CV
- 18 is prepared primarily for academic rank, and the
- articles need to be peer reviewed. This is not a
- 20 peer-reviewed article. This is a newspaper article,
- 21 essentially. So this is the lowest evidence possible.
- 22 So there's a lot of media and publications,
- 23 interviews and things that we produce that don't
- ²⁴ appear on our CV because they're low evidence.
- 25 They're not peer reviewed. So the school, the

- Page 68
- Q. This isn't something you would want to
- present in a courtroom to a judge or a jury?
- A. No.
 - O. Why not?
- A. Because it's not as academically rigorous
- 6 as other documents that I rely on.
- Q. On the second page, page 29 of Exhibit 16,
- 8 Doctor, if you turn to that, the last full paragraph
- starts with "The primary drawback." Do you see that
- paragraph?
- 11 A. What page?
- 12 Q. The second page. It's page 29 on the top.
- You have a section entitled "Transobturator tapes"; is
- 14 that right?

15

- A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And the last full paragraph in that column
- starts with, "The primary drawback"; do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And you write there, "The primary drawback
- of TOT." What do you mean when you say "TOT"?
 - A. Those would be a group of slings that
- traverse the obturator frame in both inside-to-out and
- outside-to-in, so all of the products.
 - Q. So there, you would be including the TVT-O,

Page 69

25 correct?

- 1 recommendations for the promotion committee is that we
- 2 don't list these.
- 3 Q. And would it be your -- what do you mean by
- 4 "low evidence"?
- A. This is an informal review of the
- 6 literature. There's no statistics in here. There's
- 7 no scientific method. So this would be at the level
- 8 of a book chapter or something of that variety. It
- doesn't go through the peer-review process.
- 10 Q. Well, you do have opinions in here,
- 11 correct, about the various devices?
- 12 A. Yeah, there's quite a bit of information we
- 13 provide in the article.
- 14 Q. Do you believe this to be reliable
- 15 scientific information?
- A. At least at the time when I wrote that. I
- wrote this in 2010, so these are my thoughts in 2010.
- 18 My thoughts may have changed or evolved since then
- 19 based on new publications and meta-analyses and things
- 20 that have become available.
- 21 Q. And when you say this is very low evidence,
- 22 what do you mean by that?
- 23 A. There's a pyramid of evidence that is
- 24 widely recognized in medicine, and these sort of --
- 25 this type of article is on the bottom.

- A. Correct.
- Q. And so you write, the primary drawback of
- 3 the TVT-O and other transobturator slings is an
- 4 increased incidence of groin pain and vaginal wall
- 5 extrusion. That's what you wrote, correct?
- A. That's one of many things I wrote in that paragraph.
- 8 Q. And is that still your expert opinion
- 9 today?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. You also wrote that "The TOT," which
- 12 includes the TVT-O, "is often palpable deep to the
- vaginal wall as it interacts with a longer segment of
- the vaginal wall than the classic TVT and therefore is
- more likely to result in vaginal wall exposure or
- dyspareunia." Is that also your expert opinion today?
- 17
- A. Where are you reading? In the same 18 paragraph?
- 19
- Q. Sure. Yeah, the next sentence in that paragraph. So if you're with me, Doctor, the next
- sentence in the paragraph is, "The TOT," which
- includes the TVT-O, correct?
- 23 A. Correct.
- 24 Q. "...is often palpable deep to the vaginal
- ²⁵ wall, as it interacts with a longer segment (4 to 6

- ¹ centimeters) of the vaginal wall than classic TVT and
- ² therefore is more likely to result in vaginal wall
- ³ exposure or dyspareunia." That's what you wrote in
- 4 2010, correct?
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. Is that still your expert opinion today?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. And then if you look, Doctor, on the last
- ⁹ page of your article published in 2010, you write in
- 10 the -- very near the end of this bottom middle column,
- 11 a sentence starts with, "However"; do you see that?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. "However, the trade-off is a small but
- 14 significant incidence of groin pain, vaginal wall
- ¹⁵ extrusion, and inferior efficacy in patients with
- 16 ISD." And there you're comparing the TVT-O to the
- 17 TVT; is that correct?
- A. I'm comparing retropubic tapes to
- ¹⁹ transobturator tapes as a group.
- Q. And the group of transobturator tapes would
- 21 include the TVT-O, correct?
- 22 A. Correct.
- Q. And so in this statement, you're saying the
- 24 trade-off for using a TVT-Obturator as compared to a
- ²⁵ retropubic device is a small but significant incidence

- Page 72
- opinions. This is not a systematic review. It's nota meta-analysis.
- Q. I noticed in your report, Doctor, those two
- 4 sections we just read that discuss the potential
- 5 problems associated with using a transobturator device
- 6 such as the TVT-O, those aren't referred to in any way
- ⁷ in your report, correct?
 - A. I believe I do bring that up in my report.
- ⁹ Later in the report there's more information that we
- discuss in regards to the TVT-Obturator product.
 - Q. You would consider, as you said, Doctor,
- 12 that your -- what's reflected in Exhibit 16, the
- ¹³ article that you wrote and published in Urology Times
- 14 "very low evidence," correct?
 - A. Yes.

11

15

- Q. Doctor, could you turn to page 24 of your
- 17 report, please. Have you got that?
- 18 A. I do.
- Q. And you testified, Doctor, that in drafting
- 20 your report, you did not refer to or review
- 21 Exhibit 16, the article we're looking at, correct?
- 22 A. Correct.
- Q. There's a paragraph in the middle of page
- 24 24 that starts with, "There is currently 3-year data";

Page 73

25 do you see that?

Page 71

- 1 of groin pain, vaginal wall extrusion, and inferior
- ² efficacy in patients with ISD when using the TVT-O
- 3 device, correct?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. Is that still your expert opinion today?
- 6 A. That's my opinion, yes.
- ⁷ Q. Were you aware of this article, Doctor,
- 8 when you were writing your expert report in this case?
- 9 A. I was.
- Q. Did you refer to this article at all when
- 11 writing your expert report in this case?
- 12 A. I did not.
- Q. Did you -- was there a reason you didn't
- 14 refer to this when writing your expert report?
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. What was the reason?
- A. Because this is low evidence, as I've
- 18 mentioned earlier. It's essentially a newspaper
- 19 article. I relied on systematic reviews,
- 20 meta-analyses, and prospective randomized studies.
- 21 For the most part, I relied on the original
- 22 references, so instead of citing this article, this
- ²³ article just cites a bunch of other references, so I
- $^{24}\,$ tried to go back to the original source. There's
- 25 nothing original, really, in this article beyond my

- A. Yes.
- Q. I'm going to read that, and I want you to
- 3 correct me if I get anything wrong.
- 4 "There are currently 3-year data and 9 RCTs
- 5 on Classic TVT-O that demonstrate long-term success in
- 6 as many as 95% of patients," did I read that
- 7 correctly?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Doctor, I was reading from Exhibit 16, the
- article that you wrote in 2010. You copied that for
- 11 your expert report, didn't you, word for word?
- A. I don't know. This is -- like I mentioned
- 13 earlier, about 50 percent of this report appears in my
- 14 TVT report, so these are my opinions, my thoughts, so
- 15 this is -- that's my statement. I used it in two
- 16 different articles.
- Q. Well, you know, Doctor, as of today, as of
- 18 the date you wrote your report, there are more than
- 19 nine RCTs on TVT-O, correct?
- A. I would have to go back and count, but I
- 21 know there's at least nine RCTs on TVT-O.
 - Q. So let's back up and go to page 22 of your
- 23 report, Doctor. The paragraph just above Section C,
- starts with "Transobturator tapes"; do you see that?
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. I'm going to read from Exhibit 16, Doctor,
- ² the article you published in 2010. I want you to
- 3 follow along in your report, and I want you to tell me
- 4 if I missed anything, okay?
- 5 "Transobturator tapes are tunnelled through
- 6 the obturator foramen. They were introduced to
- ⁷ further reduce morbidity and convalescence of MUS
- 8 surgery by avoiding the retropubic space," did I read
- ⁹ that correctly?
- A. I can see where you're -- on page 22. I
- 11 don't see where you're looking at on Exhibit 16.
- Q. So if you look on Exhibit 16, right where
- 13 it says "Transobturator tapes."
- 14 A. Okay.
- Q. That's copied word for word from what you
- 16 wrote in 2010, right?
- A. The first sentence on Exhibit 16?
- Q. Yes. In fact, the second sentence, and the
- 19 third sentence, and the fourth -- in fact, that whole
- 20 paragraph is copied word for word from what you wrote
- 21 in 2010, correct, Doctor?
- A. I have to look at this more closely.
- 23 There's a lot here that you're asking me to read, two
- paragraphs and compare the two paragraphs.
- Q. Well, Doctor, I'll read from Exhibit 16,

- A. No, that's not true.
- Q. You testified, Doctor, that you didn't even

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- ³ refer to Exhibit 16 when writing your report, correct?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. Is that true as you're sitting here today?
- 6 That's your belief?
 - A. Exhibit 16 is not cited in my report.
- 8 Q. But you testified you didn't even refer to
- ⁹ it, correct?
- A. I don't know what you mean by "refer to
- 11 it."

1

- Q. You didn't even look at it when preparing
- 13 your report, correct?
- A. I mean, I have knowledge of this, I wrote
- 15 it, so it's something that I recall. I don't know if
- ¹⁶ I read it immediately before preparing this report,
- ¹⁷ but certainly I have knowledge of this article.
- Q. So Doctor, I'm going to read -- do you see the next sentence that starts with "The vaginal
- 20 dissection" in your report, same paragraph?
 - A. Yes.

21

25

- Q. I'll read from Exhibit 16, if you follow
- ²³ along in your report. And you can stop me if there's
- ²⁴ a difference.
 - "The vaginal dissection is similar to TVT

- 1 and you can follow along in your expert report, okay?
- 2 A. Okay.
- Q. "Transobturator tapes are tunnelled through
- 4 the obturator foramen," is that the same?
- 5 A. And which paragraph are you looking at
- 6 here?
- 7 Q. Page 22, the one that starts with
- 8 "Transobturator tapes," do you see that?
- 9 A. It says, "Transobturator tapes are
- 10 tunnelled through the obturator foramen and were
- 11 introduced to further reduce morbidity and
- 12 convalescence."
- Q. "...of MUS surgery by avoiding the
- 14 retropubic space." That's the same, right, word for
- 15 word?
- 16 A. No.
- MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
- A. It's not the same.
- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) So Doctor, my question to
- 20 you is, did you write that paragraph on page 22 in
- 21 your report?
- 22 A. I did.
- Q. When you wrote that in your report on page
- 24 22, isn't it true you copied and pasted what you wrote
- 25 in 2010?

- Page 77

 with the exception of the angle of dissection which is
- ² at a 45-degree angle to the ischiopubic ramus."
- 3 That's exactly what it says in your report, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- ⁵ Q. Your report then says -- Exhibit 16 says,
- 6 "TOT," which you replaced in your report with
- 7 TVT-Obturator, "TOT tunnel does not traverse the
- 8 retropubic space which may be scarred from prior
- ⁹ operations and eliminates the potential for bowel
- 10 injury." That's word for word what's in your report,
- 11 correct?
- 12 A. Correct.
- Q. Next sentence, "Many gynecologic surgeons,"
- 14 you added "urologic," correct?
- A. "Many urologic and gynecologic surgeons."
- Q. "...prefer the transobturator route as they
- 17 are fearful of causing a bladder injury that more
- 18 commonly occurs with retropubic trocar passage."
- ¹⁹ That's what is in your report and in what you
- 20 published in 2010, correct?
- 21 A. Correct.
- Q. Is it your testimony as you're sitting here
- today, Doctor, that in January of 2016, you wrote the
- 24 words in your report that are almost identical to the
- ²⁵ words you wrote six years earlier in this article

- 1 without referencing the article?
- 2 A. These statements that I have in this
- 3 report, many of these are statements that I've used
- 4 many, many times over and over again. I've been very
- 5 consistent in my opinions. So these are key opinions
- 6 that I keep and maintain. I've used them in many
- ⁷ reports. As I mentioned earlier, much of this report
- 8 has come from a previous report. I've used it in
- 9 publications. I've used it in PowerPoints. I've used
- 10 it when speaking pubically and making presentations at
- 11 scientific meetings. These are statements that I've
- 12 used when I teach my residents and fellows. So these
- 13 are statements that I rely on. These are statements
- 14 that I have confidence in. These are statements that
- 15 I often repeat, yes. I do repeat these statements.
- 16 Q. So what I just read from your expert report
- 17 was indeed copied from some other source and put into
- your expert report, correct?
- 19 A. That's not correct.
- 20 Q. It's your testimony that you typed those
- words totally new without referring to your article in
- 2010, or any other source?
- 23 A. As I mentioned earlier, these are
- 24 statements that I've repeated many times. And so I
- 25 continue to repeat them. I've used them in other

- Page 80
- 1 the risk of injury to bladder, bowel, and vascular
- 2 structures and has less post-operative voiding
- 3 dysfunction."
- Is that what you wrote in both 2010 and also
- 5 in 2016 in your expert report?
- A. Correct.
- Q. Is it your testimony, Doctor, that when
- writing your expert report, those words came out for
- the first time in that order saying that thing, or did
- you copy and paste that from some other source?
- 11 MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form. 12
 - A. Neither. I don't agree with either of
- 13 those statements. Like I said earlier, these are
- statements that I commonly repeat. I've used them
- many times. I stand behind them. I've used them in
- other reports, as we mentioned earlier. You know, 70,
- 80 percent of this report has come from a previous
- report. So these are statements that I've repeated,
- statements that I have not changed my opinions on.
- These are my opinions.
- 21 Q. (By Mr. Zonies) This sentence about the
- 22 transobturator approach, did this come from some other
- 23
- 24 A. It may have. It may not have. These
- are -- I repeat things often. And these are

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- 1 reports, publications, presentations.
- Q. If you turn to page 19 of your report,
- 3 Doctor, do you have that? Are you there?
- Q. If you look at the first full paragraph,
- 6 last sentence, it begins with the words, "The
- transobturator approach"; do you see that?
 - A. The last paragraph of the --
- 9 Q. The last sentence of the first full
- 10 paragraph.

8

- 11 A. The first full paragraph?
- 12 O. Yes.
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. It begins with the words "The
- 15 transobturator approach"; do you see that?
- 16 A. I do.
- 17 Q. If you turn to page 16, Doctor, on the last
- page in the "Conclusions" section, there's also a
- sentence that begins with, "The transobturator
- 20 approach"; do you see that? Right here.
- 21 A. Okay.
- 22 Q. And you can follow in either your report or
- 23 Exhibit 16, Doctor, because they're the same. It
- 24 says, "The transobturator approach enables the surgeon
- 25 to avoid the retropubic space and thereby decreases

- 1 statements that I've repeated many times. If it
- ² appears in another report or another publication or
- ³ presentation of mine, I wouldn't be surprised, because

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- 4 I tend to say the same thing consistently about these
- 5 products.
- Q. Well, here's my question, Doctor. If you
- look at Exhibit 16, you see the sentence we just read,
- "The transobturator approach enables the surgeon to
- avoid the retropubic space and thereby decreases the
- 10 risk of injury to bladder, bowel, and vascular
- structures and has less post-operative voiding
- dysfunction," right?
 - A. Yes.

13

- Q. That's what you feel is a benefit of the
- 15 TVT-O, correct?
 - A. It's one of the many benefits.
- 17 Q. Now, you wouldn't want to hide the
- negatives in writing your expert report, would you?
- 19 A. I try to make my reports as comprehensive
- and informative as possible. The report is prepared
- in order to reflect opinions that I'm going to have in
- this trial and testimony.
- Q. I'd like you to look back at Exhibit 16.
- What is the sentence after the one that's in your
- 25 report that we were just reading in Exhibit 16? What

- 1 does that sentence say? Could you read that, please?
- 2 A. "However, the trade-off is a small but
- 3 significant incidence of groin pain, vaginal
- 4 extrusion, and inferior efficacy in patients with
- 5 ISD."
- 6 Q. Why did you choose not to include that
- sentence in your expert report, Doctor?
- 8 A. I did include that statement. That's in
- ⁹ other paragraphs. You got to read the report more
- 10 comprehensively. I pointed that out in other
- 11 sections. And we can go to those sections, if you'd
- 12 like, but I've mentioned in the report that there are
- 13 studies to show that the obturator approach has
- 14 inferior incontinence results in patients with ISDs
- 15 when compared to TVT-O. And I point out in the
- 16 meta-analyses in the Cochrane reviews the advantages
- ¹⁷ and disadvantages of the various products. So you're
- 18 just pulling one paragraph out of context. If you
- 19 read the entire 53-page document, we can go to other
- 20 areas in that document that talk about the limitations
- 21 of the product.
- Q. So Doctor, I'm reading on page 19 a
- 23 sentence that mirrors the sentence in the publication
- 24 that you did in 2010. It's word for word the same,
- 25 correct?

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- 1 A. Correct.
- Q. And then in your 2010 publication, you have
- 3 a balance where you talk about the downsides of the
- 4 TVT-O, correct, in the next sentence?
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. You deleted that sentence in your expert
- ⁷ report, correct?
- 8 A. Incorrect.
- 9 Q. Turn back to page 24, Doctor, of your
- 10 expert report, the paragraph that begins with, "There
- 11 is currently 3-year data and 9 RCTs on classic TVT-O";
- 12 do you see that paragraph?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. Doctor, I'd like you to look at Exhibit 16,
- what you wrote in 2010, and you'll see that, again,
- 16 those first one, two, three, four sentences are word
- 17 for word what you wrote in 2010, correct?
- A. You have to point out where you're talking
- 19 about. I can see this on page 24, but in
- 20 Exhibit 16 -- which paragraph are we on?
- Q. Sure. On Exhibit 16, if you look at the
- 22 second page, the second paragraph under
- 23 "Transobturator tapes," it says, "There are currently
- 24 3-year data and nine RCTs on Classic TVT-O," right?
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. Now, you wrote that in 2010, correct?
- 2 A. Correct.
- Q. And has there been a single RCT published
- 4 between 2010 and today, or the date that you wrote
- 5 your report, on classic TVT-O?
- A. I'll have to look at the dates of the RCTs
- ⁷ I quoted. There may have been.
- Q. So when you wrote in your expert report
- 9 "There is currently 3-year data and 9 RCTs on classic
- 10 TVT-O," was that correct or incorrect as of
- 11 February of 2016?
 - A. I'd have to go back and look and count. I
- 13 know that there's at least nine RCTs. If there's ten,
- 14 eleven, there could be more. I think the more, the
- better, but definitely I know there's at least nine of
- 16 them.

12

21

- Q. And that's because you copied this from
 - your 2010 article, or somewhere else, right? That's
- ¹⁹ why it says "9 RCTs." You copied it.
- MR. KOOPMANN: Object to form.
 - A. I disagree, like I disagreed earlier.
- Q. (By Mr. Zonies) Would you believe me,
- 23 Doctor, if I told you there are more than 21 -- more
- 24 than 20 RCTs on TVT-O as of the date of your report?
- 25 Would that be surprising?
- Page 85

- A. There's -- it's a compound sentence, so it
- 2 says there's three-year data, nine RCTs, so, you know,
- 3 there might be RCTs that have shorter data. We were
- 4 trying to include, you know, the longest RCTs,
- 5 three-year data or greater.
- 6 Q. Now, Doctor, if you turn -- did you write
- ⁷ your TVT-S report before or after your TVT-O report?
- 8 A. I'll have to go back and look at the dates
- 9 on the TVT-S.
 - Q. So Doctor, please turn in your report to
- page 51. Now, you were careful when writing your
- 12 report, correct?
- A. I do the best I can to be careful with
- 14 these reports, yes.
- Q. You approach this with the scientific rigor
 - 6 of presenting high-level evidence, not very low-level
- 17 evidence, correct?
- 18 A. Correct.
- MR. KOOPMANN: Counsel, your two hours are
- 20 up.
- MR. ZONIES: That's all I have today,
- 22 Doctor, unfortunately, because of a time limit, but
- 23 thank you for your time.
- 24 THE WITNESS: All right. Thank you.
- MR. KOOPMANN: Doctor, I'm going to have a

- 1 few follow-up questions based on Mr. Zonies'
- 2 questions.
- 3 EXAMINATION
- 4 BY MR. KOOPMANN:
- 5 Q. You were asked some questions earlier about
- 6 your preparation of the TVT-O report and when you did
- 7 that in relation to your TVT report, correct?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. Your TVT-Retropubic report was not prepared
- 10 from start to finish solely for purposes of this
- 11 litigation -- this federal-court litigation; is that
- 12 correct?
- 13 A. Correct.
- Q. You had originally prepared a
- 15 TVT-Retropubic report for an earlier case that you're
- 16 no longer dealing with in 2016; is that fair to say?
- 17 A. Yes.
- Q. So some of the time that you spent in
- 19 preparing your TVT-Retropubic report may have been
- 20 billed in a separate case; is that fair to say?
- A. Yes, that's fair to say.
- Q. How long after surgery did you typically
- 23 discharge your TVT-O patients?
- A. They were discharged the same day, the
- 25 overwhelming majority of them, unless the surgery was

- Page 88

 1 TVT-Obturator is a good product to have in a surgeon's
- 2 tool kit, so to speak?
- 3 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- 4 A. I do.
- 5 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) Did you do professional
- 6 education for the TVT-Obturator sling for Ethicon?
- A. I did, from 2004 to 2010, 2011.
- Q. How many TVT-Obturator slings would you
- 9 estimate that you've implanted?
 - A. Close to 200.
- Q. And how many TVT-Abbrevos would you
- 12 estimate that you've implanted in your career?
- 13 A. Approximately 100.
- Q. I'm going to ask you a few follow-up
 - questions on some of the studies that Mr. Zonies asked
- 16 you about. Start with Exhibit 13, the Zahn article.
- 17 Do you still have that one in front of you?
 - A. Yes.

18

- Q. Now, you mentioned in response to one of
- 20 Mr. Zonies' questions that there was a controversy
- 21 that exists in your field regarding whether the
- 22 TVT-Obturator -- strike that.
- You mentioned earlier that there's a
 - 4 controversy that exists in your field regarding which
- 25 approach for an obturator sling is better, the

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- 1 combined with another procedure that may have required
- 2 a hospital stay.
- Q. Do you think that both the TVT-O and the
- 4 TVT-Abbrevo are safe and effective products?
- A. I do.
- 6 Q. And is that your opinion -- strike that.
- Which sling, the TVT-Obturator or the
- 8 TVT-Abbrevo, has more published data on it?
- 9 A. The TVT-Obturator.
- Q. When you started using the TVT-Obturator in
- 11 2004, did you find that that was a better option for
- 12 some patients in your practice than the TVT-Retropubic
- 13 sling?
- 14 A. I did.
- Q. But were there also patients for whom you
- 16 thought the TVT-Retropubic sling was a better option?
- 17 A. Correct.
- Q. When you leave behind mesh in a TVT-O
- 19 patient after you remove some of the mesh, are you
- 20 leaving behind mesh that you do not believe to be
- 21 causing the plaintiff any problems?
- MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- A. That's correct. I remove only what I feel
- 24 is necessary.
- Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) Do you think the

1 inside-out approach or the outside-in approach; is

Page 89

- 2 that correct?
- 3 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- 4 A. That is correct.
- ⁵ Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And this Zahn study is
- 6 one study on one side of that controversy; is that
- ⁷ fair to say?

10

13

- 8 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- 9 A. Correct.
 - Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And it's an anatomic
- 11 study; is that right?
- 12 A. Yes, it's an anatomic study.
 - Q. And it says at the top on the first page,
- 14 "Level of Evidence: II"; do you see that?
- 15 A. I do.
 - Q. What does that mean?
- A. There's levels of evidence in that pyramid
- 18 as we mentioned, so Level II evidence is just one of
- 19 them. So this is not the highest level of evidence by
- ²⁰ any means.
- Q. Level I evidence is the highest level of
- 22 evidence?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And then I want to direct your attention to
- ²⁵ page 705 of that Zahn study.

1 A. I'd like to go back if I can. I don't

- ² think this is even Level II evidence. I think that's
- 3 maybe what Dr. Zahn felt it was, but I don't think
- that's even supported.
- MR. ZONIES: Objection; move to strike.
- 6 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) Bottom left of page 705,
- do you see a paragraph that starts, "Although there
- are anatomic"?
- 9 A. Yes.

5

- 10 Q. And that paragraph says, "Although there
- 11 are anatomic differences between the two approaches
- 12 for transobturator tape placement relative to
- proximity to neurovascular structures, clinical
- 14 consequences thus far do not seem to significantly
- ¹⁵ correlate with theoretical risk based on anatomic
- dissections"; did I read that correctly?
- 17 A. You did, yes.
- 18 MR. ZONIES: Object to form.
- 19 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And do you agree with
- 20 that statement?
- 21 A. I do. And that's based on my own clinical
- 22 experience as well as a review of the literature and
- systematic reviews, RCTs. There's not a single
- 24 systematic review that would support one being
- ²⁵ superior over the other in terms of the outcome.

Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And in Exhibit 16, the

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- ² article that you co-authored, turn to page 29, please.
- ³ I direct your attention to the middle column. In the
- 4 middle of that first paragraph, you noted, "We prefer
- an inside-out approach, as this ensures that we will
- 6 have accurate sling placement at the mid-urethra as in
- ⁷ all of our MUS procedures. Also, the inside-out
- approach has a decreased incidence of bladder injury
- as the trocar is passed away from the bladder, not
- toward it"; did I read that correctly?
- 11 A. You did.
- 12 Q. And in that paragraph, you are saying that
 - you prefer the inside-out approach for transobturator
- sling placement over the outside-in approach for those
- reasons; is that fair to say?
- 16 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- 17 A. Yes, that's one main reason.
 - Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And why is it that an
- inside-out approach has a decreased incidence of
- bladder injury because the trocar's passed away from
- 21 the bladder?
- 22 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- 23 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) Can you explain that to
- 24 me?

25

A. Yeah, there's two types of transobturator

Page 91

- Q. And the Achtari study that was marked as 1
- ² Exhibit Number 14, that's another anatomical study; is
- 3 that correct?
- A. That's correct.
- 5 O. So not Level I evidence?
- A. Correct. That's not Level I evidence.
- 7 It's even less cadavers that were used in the previous
- study, in the Zahn study. 8
- 9 Q. And in the Spinosa article that Mr. Zonies
- 10 marked as Exhibit 15, that's another anatomical study;
- 11 is that right?
- 12 A. Yes, of seven cadavers.
- 13 Q. And this is not Level I evidence either, is
- 14 it?

- 15 A. It's not Level I evidence.
- 16 Q. The authors in the Spinosa article noted on
- page 1101 that "It is possible that in the present
- cadaver study the thigh flexion during tape insertion
- was suboptimal because of the rigidity of the
- specimens"; is that right?
 - A. That is correct.
- 22 Q. And that was a limitation of -- a possible
- 23 limitation of that anatomic study?
- 24 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- 25 A. Yes, that's a limitation of this study.

- Page 93 1 approaches. There's the outside-to-in, meaning the
- ² puncture's on the skin, and then the trocar exits in
- 3 the vagina. Then there's the inside-to-out. I prefer
- 4 the inside-to-out approach because you can more
- 5 accurately identify the urethra and the bladder and
- start at the midurethral complex.
- The statement that I've made many times to
- the residents and fellows and students I train is, if
- you start at the midurethra, you end at the
- midurethra. So I prefer all of my midurethral slings
- 11 to start there, whether it's a mini-sling, retropubic
- 12 sling or transobturator sling. And the dissection is
- 13 very straightforward to the obturator foramen. You're
- able to physically dissect the bladder off of the
- 15 ischiopubic rami and then insert your trocar and
- safely pass it away from the bladder towards the legs,
- so there's very little risk of injuring the bladder if
- the procedure's done properly, where, with the
- outside-to-in approach, there's a lot more tunnelling
- 20 that occurs blindly. And so when the tunnelling is
- occurring across the transobturator, you'll more
- 22 likely injure the bladder or the urethra or end up in
- 23 the wrong location, not at the midurethral complex.
- 24 Q. I think you mentioned earlier that you
- ²⁵ relied primarily, or relied heavily on Level I

- 1 evidence, like prospective randomized control trials,
- 2 systematic reviews and meta-analyses; is that fair to
- 3 say?
- 4 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And why is it that you
- 7 relied primarily on those materials in forming your
- 8 opinions about the TVT-Obturator sling?
- 9 MR. ZONIES: Same objection.
- 10 A. Because they're peer reviewed. They're a
- 11 summary of the best evidence that's out there. They
- 12 tend to eliminate bias and opinion. And so that's why
- 13 we rely on that for all the medical conditions that we
- 14 treat. If those levels of evidence don't exist, then
- 15 you do need to rely on lower levels of evidence if
- 16 it's a product that has not been well-studied. But
- 17 the TVT product and the TVT-Obturator product are some
- 18 of the most widely studied medical devices ever, and
- 19 so why not rely on the most highest levels of evidence
- 20 when formulating your opinions.
- Q. And did you review and rely on a Cochrane
- 22 review by first author named Ford that was published
- 23 in 2015 regarding midurethral sling operations for
- 24 stress urinary incontinence in women?
- 25 A. I did.

- Page 95
- Q. Do you have that article in your binder
- ² here? I'll ask you a couple of questions about that.
- 3 MR. ZONIES: I think it's 27, I think.
- ⁴ Wait, wait, did I guess right? She needs to hear that
- ⁵ I guessed that right, because I'm not as old as she
- 6 thinks I am now.
- A. Let me just double-check my references
- 8 here. Suspense is killing everyone.
- 9 MR. ZONIES: It's wrong. It's 73.
- 10 A. So I have 25 is Oga, 27 --
- Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) Here, let me make this
- 12 easier. Let me just give you a copy.
- 13 A. Okay. Thank you.
- Q. And it's -- this is a 280-some page
- 15 document in its entirety, so I have copied some
- 16 excerpts from it that I want to ask you some questions
- 17 about.
- MR. ZONIES: Objection to the editing of
- 19 the document.
- Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) If you'll turn to page
- 21 2, please, of the copy I handed you.
- MR. KOOPMANN: And we'll mark that as
- 23 Exhibit 17.
- (Exhibit 17 was marked for identification.)
- Q. Page 2 of the Ford/Cochrane review, they

- Page 96
- 1 noted in the middle of the "Main results" section on
- ² page 2 with respect to vaginal tape erosion or
- ³ exposure or extrusion that the rate -- the overall
- 4 rate was low in both groups, meaning both in the
- ⁵ retropubic and the transobturator groups; is that
- 6 correct?
- A. It says, "The overall rate of vaginal tape
- 8 erosion/exposure/extrusion was low in both groups, 24
- 9 out of 1,000 instances."
 - Q. With transobturator slings?
- A. With transobturator, 21 out of 1,000 for
- 12 retropubic.

10

23

- Q. So that's a 2.4 percent rate of vaginal
- 14 tape erosion, exposure or extrusion with
- transobturator slings?
- 16 A. Correct.
- Q. And further down in the section labeled
 - "Authors' Conclusions," the authors concluded that
- 19 "Mid-urethral sling operations have been the most
- 20 extensively researched surgical treatment for stress
- 21 urinary incontinence in women and have a good safety
- 22 profile"; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
 - MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) They went on to say,
 - Page 97
- ¹ "Irrespective of the routes traversed, they are highly
- ² effective in the short and medium-term, and accruing
- ³ evidence demonstrates their effectiveness in the
- 4 long-term"; did I read that correctly?
- 5 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- 6 A. You did.
- Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And then they go on to
- 8 say, "This review illustrates their positive impact on
- 9 improving the quality of life of women with SUI"; is
- 10 that right?
- MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- 12 A. That's correct.
- Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) If you'll turn to page
- 28 of Exhibit 17, there's a section there dealing with
- 15 pain. And it notes in the right-hand column there
- that "Both groin and suprapubic pain occurrence were
- short-lasting with most resolving within the first six
- l8 months"; is that correct?
- MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- A. That's correct.
- Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And they're referring to
- both transobturator and retropubic slings in that; is
- 23 that correct?
- MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- A. That's correct.

1

1 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) If you'll turn to page

- 2 30 of the Ford/Cochrane review, you'll see a section
- 3 discussing sexual function and quality of life
- 4 measures; do you see that?
- 5 A. I do.
- 6 Q. And they say at the bottom of that left
- column, "In all the trials there was significant
- 8 improvement in sexual function from baseline scores
- 9 during the follow-up period that spanned 6 to 24
- 10 months"; is that right?
- 11 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- 12 A. That's correct.
- 13 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) They then note, "There
- 14 were no significant differences between the two
- groups," meaning the retropubic and transobturator
- group; is that right?
- 17 MR. ZONIES: Same objection.
- 18 A. Correct.
- Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And then they noted, "At 19
- 20 24-month follow-up, rates of superficial and deep
- 21 dyspareunia were low, with no difference between the
- groups"; is that correct?
- 23 MR. ZONIES: Object to form.
- 24 A. That is correct.
- 25 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And are these findings

- MR. ZONIES: Same objection.
- 2 A. That's correct.
- Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And what did these

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- 4 authors find the nine-year cumulative risk of sling
- revision or removal was in that patient population?
- A. At one year, the risk was 2.2 percent.
- This increased to 3.2 percent at four years before
- plateauing.
 - Q. And they found that the nine-year
- cumulative risk of sling revision or removal was 3.7
- percent; is that right?
- 12 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
- 13 A. That's correct.
- 14 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And they found the
 - nine-year risk of mesh erosion was 2.5 percent; is
- that correct?
- 17 MR. ZONIES: Same objection.
- 18 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 19 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And this is a study that
- you reviewed and relied on in forming your opinions
- regarding the TVT-Obturator sling?
- 22 A. It is.
- 23 Q. Did you review a systematic review and
- meta-analysis by Dr. Tommaselli that was published in
- 25 2015?

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- 1 A. I did.
 - Q. I hand you a copy of that.
 - MR. KOOPMANN: We can mark that as 3
 - 4 Exhibit 19, please.
 - (Exhibit 19 was marked for identification.)
 - Q. So this is one of the systematic reviews
 - and meta-analyses that you referenced earlier as one
 - of the types of studies that you primarily relied on;
 - is that true?
 - 10 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
 - 11 A. Yes, this is one of the systematic reviews
 - 12 that I relied on.
 - 13 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And the authors noted in
 - the abstract that the objective of this review was to
 - evaluate the long-term outcomes of retropubic
 - midurethral sling procedures and the medium-term
 - outcomes of transobturator procedures; is that right?
 - 18 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.
 - A. Yes, that's correct.
 - 20 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And if you'll turn to
 - page -- it's the page with Table 3 at the bottom
 - 22 right-hand corner.
 - 23 A. Okay.

- Q. Table 3, they report the number of patients
- 25 treated and evaluated in the medium-term and long-term

- 1 that we discussed in the Ford/Cochrane review
- 2 consistent in your experience in treating your
- 3 patients with transobturator slings?
- MR. ZONIES: Same objection.
- A. They're consistent with my review of the
- 6 medical literature and my own personal experience with
- the midurethral sling devices.
- 8 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) Did you review and rely
- 9 on an article by lead author Michele Jonsson Funk in
- 10 formulating your opinions regarding the TVT-O sling?
- 11 A. I did.
- 12 Q. I hand you a copy of that.
- 13 MR. KOOPMANN: If we could mark that as
- 14 Deposition Exhibit 18.
- 15 (Exhibit 18 was marked for identification.)
- 16 Q. This study was a population-based cohort of
- commercially insured individuals that were treated
- 18 between 2001 and 2010 with a midurethral sling
- procedure and any subsequent sling revision/removal;
- 20 is that right?
- 21 MR. ZONIES: Object to form.
- 22 A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And they looked at
- 180,454 women who underwent an index sling procedure;
- 25 is that right?

Page 102 Page 104 1 per type of device; is that right? 1 and efficacy of the TVT-Obturator sling? 2 A. Yes. A. That's correct. 3 Q. This study looked at 3,307 women who MR. ZONIES: Object to the form. Sorry. 4 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And the total number of underwent sling placement; is that right? MR. ZONIES: Object to the form. transobturator slings studied in this procedure -- or 5 A. That's correct. this study were 2,432; is that right? 6 7 MR. ZONIES: Same objection. Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And they found that 89 8 A. Looking at all studies, 2,432. of those 3,307 women, or 2.7 percent, underwent the 9 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And that would include sling revision for one or more of various indications; 10 TVT-O, but it would also include other slings; is that is that fair to say? 11 right? 11 MR. ZONIES: Same objections. 12 12 A. TVT-O, Monarc, Aris, TOT, I-Stop TOT, IVS, A. That's fair to say. 13 Obtape. 13 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And in the "Conclusions" 14 Q. And then on the next page, you'll see a section of their abstract, they noted that the rate of 15 section labeled "Tape-related long-term sling revision after midurethral sling placement was complications"; do you see that? 2.7 percent; is that right? 17 17 A. I do. MR. ZONIES: Same objections. 18 18 Q. And there they report, "Persistent or A. Yes, that's right. 19 chronic pain (i.e. pain persisting beyond the 19 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) If you'll turn to the perioperative period or reported at the last follow-up 20 page that has the "Results" section on the left-hand 21 column. 21 visit) was reported by 13 patients for retropubic 22 midurethral slings and 30 patients for transobturator 22 A. Yes. 23 midurethral slings"; is that right? Q. The start of the "Results" section, do you 24 A. That's correct. see that? 25 25 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form. A. I do. Page 103 Page 105 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) So while the authors 1 Q. So they note there that of the 3,307 women 2 don't report this particular calculation, if you do ² who underwent midurethral sling placement during the 3 that calculation of 30 patients with persistent or 3 study period, 89 underwent subsequent sling revision 4 chronic pain divided by the total number of 4 for one or more of the following indications: urinary 5 transobturator slings, the rate is 1.2 percent of ⁵ retention, 43.8 percent; voiding symptoms, 42.7 6 persistent or chronic pain with transobturator slings; 6 percent; recurrent UTI, 20.2 percent; mesh erosion, 7 is that right? ⁷ 21.3 percent; vaginal pain/dyspareunia, 7.9 percent; 8 MR. ZONIES: Object to the form, and the and groin pain, 3.4 percent; is that right? 9 9 math. MR. ZONIES: Object to the form. A. Yes, that's correct. 10 10 A. That's correct. 11 MR. KOOPMANN: What's wrong with my math? 11 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And so for erosions, MR. ZONIES: None, I'm just -- I'm 12 21.3 percent of 89 people had re-operations for 12 13 objecting to my inability to confirm your math, and 13 erosion? 14 that he'll do math for you but not for me. 14 MR. ZONIES: Same objection. 15 Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) Did you also look at a 15 A. For erosion, it was 21 percent of the 89, 16 study by -- or review a study by Dr. Unger and so that would be --17 colleagues on the indication and risk factors for Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) 19 people? 18 midurethral sling revision? A. -- approximately 19 people, or 20 people. 18 19 19 A. I did. Q. And if you divide 19 people divided by the 20 Q. I have got a copy for you there. 3,307 women, that would yield a re-operation for MR. KOOPMANN: If we could mark that, erosion rate of 0.57 percent, per my math. Do you 21 22 please, as Exhibit 20. think that is correct? 23 23 (Exhibit 20 was marked for identification.) MR. ZONIES: Object to the form. 24 Q. Is this a study that you reviewed and 24 A. Yeah, that's correct.

25

25 relied on in forming your opinions about the safety

Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And for vaginal pain and

		-	
	Page 106		Page 108
1	dyspareunia, 7.9 percent of 89 people had a	1	I, BRIAN FLYNN, M.D., do hereby certify that
2	re-operation for vaginal pain or dyspareunia. That		I have read the foregoing transcript and that the same
3	would be seven people, is that right, if my math is		and accompanying amendment sheets, if any, constitute
4	right?		a true and complete record of my testimony.
5	MR. ZONIES: Same objections. It's	5	
6	improper use of scientific articles, improper cross	6	
7	or redirect.	7	
8	A. Yes, that would be correct.	8	Ci-matana af Damana
9	Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) And		Signature of Deponent
10	MR. ZONIES: Leading.	9	() No. Amondments
11	Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) if you do that math,	10	() No Amendments
12		11	() Amendments Attached Subscribed and sworn to before me
	of re-operation for vaginal pain or dyspareunia; is		
		13	this day of, 2016.
	that right?	14	Notary Public:
15	MR. ZONIES: Object to the form.	15	Address:
16	A. Yes, that's correct.	16	Address.
17	MR. ZONIES: Math.	17	My commission expires:
18	Q. (By Mr. Koopmann) Are all of the opinions	18	Seal:
19	that you've set forth in your TVT-Obturator report set	19	Scal.
20	forth to a reasonable degree of medical and scientific	20	
21	certainty?	21	
22	A. Yes, they are.	22	MLG
23	MR. KOOPMANN: I don't have any other	23	
24	questions for you, Dr. Flynn. Thank you.	24	
25	MR. ZONIES: Doctor, thank you for your	25	
	D 107		D 100
	Page 107		Page 109
	time. I would have more but I've run out of time.	1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
	Thank you.	2	STATE OF COLORADO)
3	THE WITNESS. Thouls won		
	THE WITNESS: Thank you.) SS.
4	(Whereupon, the deposition was concluded at) ss. COUNTY OF DENVER)
	•	4	COUNTY OF DENVER)
	(Whereupon, the deposition was concluded at	4 5	COUNTY OF DENVER) I, MELANIE L. GIAMARCO, do hereby certify that I am
5	(Whereupon, the deposition was concluded at	4 5 6	COUNTY OF DENVER) I, MELANIE L. GIAMARCO, do hereby certify that I am a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public within
5 6	(Whereupon, the deposition was concluded at	4 5 6 7	COUNTY OF DENVER) I, MELANIE L. GIAMARCO, do hereby certify that I am a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public within the State of Colorado; that previous to the commencement of
5 6 7	(Whereupon, the deposition was concluded at	4 5 6 7 8	COUNTY OF DENVER) I, MELANIE L. GIAMARCO, do hereby certify that I am a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public within the State of Colorado; that previous to the commencement of the examination, the deponent was duly sworn by me.
5 6 7 8	(Whereupon, the deposition was concluded at	4 5 6 7 8 9	COUNTY OF DENVER) I, MELANIE L. GIAMARCO, do hereby certify that I am a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public within the State of Colorado; that previous to the commencement of the examination, the deponent was duly sworn by me. I further certify that this deposition was taken in
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5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	(Whereupon, the deposition was concluded at	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	I, MELANIE L. GIAMARCO, do hereby certify that I at a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public within the State of Colorado; that previous to the commencement of the examination, the deponent was duly sworn by me. I further certify that this deposition was taken in machine shorthand by me at the time and place herein set forth, that it was thereafter reduced to typewritten form, and that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct transcript of the proceedings had. I further certify that I am not employed by, related to, nor of counsel for any of the parties herein, nor otherwise interested in the result of the within litigation. In witness whereof, I have affixed my signature and seal this 15th day of April, 2016. Melanie L. Giamarco Registered Professional Reporter Registered Merit Reporter

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